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THE

# Bonaparte-Patterson Marriage

6609  
IN 1803,

AND THE

SECRET CORRESPONDENCE ON THE SUBJECT

NEVER BEFORE MADE PUBLIC.

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED BY

W. T. R. SAFFELL,

AUTHOR OF "RECORDS OF THE REVOLUTION," ETC.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY THE PROPRIETOR.

1873.

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See Americans of Royal Desc  
Page 597

1877772





JEROME BONAPARTE.







ELIZABETH PATTERSON.



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WILLIAM L. SAFFELL

WILLIAM L. SAFFELL



## PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

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IN explanation of the communication from Col. Jerome N. Bonaparte and Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte which appears below, the Publisher of this book deems it expedient to say a few words.

The facts so far as known in the case of the marriage of Jerome Bonaparte to Miss Patterson in 1803, have so long been matters of history, that when the author came into possession of the complete correspondence on the subject, he did not feel that in making it public, he should be doing other than contributing to a portion of history about which a good deal had been already written.

Out of courtesy to Mde. Bonaparte, who is still living, he sent to her, through a friend, the proof sheets of the greater part of the work, and the design of the book was fully explained to her. Mde. Bonaparte made no objection to its issue, saying, that "the publication of the volume was a matter of perfect indifference to her."



This was as early as October 1872, but in January 1873, Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte called to request that the book should not be published, not denying however the *right* to publish it; the book was then almost ready for issue. Mr. Bonaparte requested the lines below to be inserted in the preface:

*“ This work is published in opposition to the formally expressed wishes of Col. Jerome N. Bonaparte and Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte.”*

It is presumed that Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte had authority to express Col. Jerome N. Bonaparte's wishes.

W. T. R. SAFFELL.

Philadelphia, Feb. 10th 1872.





## INTRODUCTION.

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FOR the appearance in this form of a documentary narrative of events which followed the most wonderful marriage known in historic times, we have no apologies to offer. We would not, however, make it appear that the marriage itself was so wonderful; but would say, that the events which followed it find no parallel either in the annals of fact, or in the domains of fancy. We refer to the marriage of Miss Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore, to Jerome Bonaparte of France.

In the secret correspondence on the subject, which we publish in this volume, we have brought to view many hidden facts; and hope we have furnished strange and useful information to the general reader, the moralist, and the historian.

That the public may learn how we came into the possession of the original letters and other documents quoted or published at large in this volume, we have to say simply, that we bought them from Houtine &



Murdock, dealers in paper-makers' material, on Centre Market Space, Baltimore. These gentlemen, to our own personal knowledge, and to that of many gentlemen of Baltimore, bought them as "waste paper," directly from Mr. William Patterson's old warehouse on Gay street. In the lot of old documents which we purchased, we found a bundle of English and French letters on the subject of the marriage, carefully filed in the order of time, and in perfect preservation. These we copied, and, at his request, returned the originals to Mr. Patterson's grandson, now occupying the warehouse.

Mr. Robert Patterson was in Europe during the time of the troubles arising from his sister's marriage; and his letters on the subject, made up from the most reliable French, English, and German sources of information, and addressed to his father in Baltimore, contain a thrilling history of the mysterious developments which succeeded the marriage with the most alarming rapidity. From these letters, in chief, and from those of other distinguished writers, collected and filed by Mr. Patterson, we have formed a chain of narrative, extending from the time of Jerome Bonaparte's marriage to Miss Patterson on the 24th of December 1803, to the time of his second marriage to the princess Frederica Catharina, in 1807.

We do not mean to call attention to what we have



to say upon the subject of the marriage in question, for we make no pretensions to authorship; but we mean, simply, to favor the public with what distinguished writers have written concerning it; and we call special attention to the letters of the following gentlemen, which are carefully copied in this book, viz.:

WILLIAM PATTERSON, the bride's father.

ROBERT PATTERSON, her brother.

M. DACRES, French Minister of Marine.

ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, American Minister to France.

Gen. JOHN ARMSTRONG, his successor.

Gen. TUERREAU, French Minister at Washington.

Gen. SÁMUEL SMITH, of Maryland.

Gen. REWBELL, of the French army.

Capt. PAUL BENTALOU, of Baltimore.

M. MEYRONET, of the French Navy.

M. MAUPERTUIS, French Consul at Rotterdam.

SYLVANUS BOURNE, U. S. Consul General, Batavian Republic.

P. CUNEO DE ORNANO, of St. Croix de Teneriffe.

M. LE CAMUS, of Genoa.

JEROME BONAPARTE.

MADAME BONAPARTE, his wife.

GEO. M. PATERSON, of Lille, her cousin.

JOSEPH and LUCIEN BONAPARTE.



JEROME NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, and several anonymous writers.

Many of these letters are in French, and some of those of Robert Patterson in cipher. We have also made use of paragraphs from the newspapers of the day, and items floating in the mists of tradition, when they were found to be to the credit of the distinguished American family into which Jerome was introduced.

From the letters of M. Maupertuis, we have the secrets which leaked out from the court of Napoleon through the Empress Josephine; and from those of Captain Bentalou we have some gossip from distinguished ladies near the throne.

We have given above the main authorities which we quote. Each link in the chain of events has been so well wrought by the original writers themselves, that we have had but little to do by way of completion; and when the reader comes to the end of the book, he will feel that the subject is exhausted, and that he has been instructed, amused, and satisfied.

W. T. R. S.

Baltimore, Jan. 1873.





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## THE

# BONAPARTE-PATTERSON MARRIAGE.

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## CHAPTER I.

Jerome Bonaparte—He visits Baltimore—Commodore Barney—Miss Elizabeth Patterson—Her great beauty—Jerome proposes marriage—Gossip and scandal—Anonymous letters—The marriage—Tranquillity restored—Young couple visit Washington City—General Tuerreau—General Smith—His letter about “Betsy”—Mr. Patterson writes to Minister Livingston—Napoleon angry on account of the marriage—Letters from the President of the United States on the subject—Speeks of war—Napoleon and Agamemnon—Robert Patterson goes to Paris—Delicate diplomacy—Mr. Livingston’s views—Letters from Miss Monroe—Madame Louis Bonaparte in Paris—Madame Campan—Citizen Genet—Fulwar Skipwith—Captain Paul Bentalou, of Baltimore.

JEROME BONAPARTE, youngest brother of Napoleon I., Emperor of France, was born on the 15th day of December 1784, at Ajaccio, on the island of Corsica, in the Mediterranean Sea. Educated principally under Madame Campan in and near Paris, he was, in early life, placed in the naval service of France, where he remained till the year 1801.



Styling himself conqueror and pacificator, Napoleon, in November of that year, sent an expedition in command of General Leclerc, his brother-in-law, to crush an insurrection of the negroes on the island of St. Domingo; and Jerome, as lieutenant under him, accompanied that large army. The expedition terminated unsuccessfully and fatally, a greater part of the men being swept away by fever and by the sword.

Jerome soon returned to France as bearer of dispatches; and, receiving there an independent command, sailed for the island of Martinique; and cruised between St. Pierre and Tobago during the hostilities between England and France in 1803; but for some reason not given left the station in the same year, and sailed for New York in command of a French frigate. The broadcast fame of Napoleon insured for Jerome a cordial reception in America, and he was received with great honors wherever he went.

In 1796, Captain Joshua Barney, of the American navy, received a rank in the French service equal to that of a commodore in the service of the United States; and had been employed in the West Indies under French colors; but from this service he obtained a final release in 1802, and returned to his home in Baltimore. His young Corsican friend, and companion in the French service, soon found his way from New York to Baltimore, and met with a distinguished reception from Captain Barney and other prominent citizens of the place. At the house of Samuel Chase, one of the Maryland signers of the Declaration of



Independence, Captain Bonaparte met a great number of persons in "high social, political, and literary life." Here he made the acquaintance of Miss Elizabeth Patterson, daughter of William Patterson, Esquire, a highly respectable and wealthy Irish merchant of that city.

This beautiful and accomplished young lady, it is alleged, had declared prophetically, long before she had seen young Bonaparte, that some day or other she would become a great lady in France; and at a party where they met soon after their acquaintance, Bonaparte's gold chain was accidentally thrown around her neck, entangling itself so as to hold her fast; and as he gracefully disentangled it, she called to mind her strange prophecy. From that hour we may safely date the beginning of her eventful matrimonial experience.

Freighted with the weight of a great foreign name, Jerome speedily gained those advantages in American society for which distinguished foreigners in every period of our history have been so remarkable. Less himself than twenty years of age when he arrived in Baltimore, Miss Patterson, though possessed of great beauty, was less than eighteen; and it is said "she strikingly resembled the Bonaparte family." Becoming strongly attached to her, probably from first sight, she was sent to Virginia to escape his attentions; but the attachment was mutual, and remonstrances were therefore in vain. That strong passion which blunts the mind and obscures the vision was the ruling passion; and a license for their marriage





issued from the Baltimore County Court-House on the 29th of October 1803. Strong and rapidly formed currents of affection, like all others, meet grave obstacles in their course, and this was strikingly true with respect to the case in point; for, in the language of the young lady's father, "the marriage was broken off," even after the license formally issued. The most splendid preparations had been made for the ceremony—preparations sufficiently brilliant to eclipse those of vice-regal days in the olden time, when blue wreaths of smoke, betraying the half-hidden mansion and proclaiming the costly banquet, ascended gracefully through the trees from a thousand hospitable chimneys.

Amid these preparations for the sacred altar, however, gossip stood tip-toe and scandal rampant. Family ancestries were discussed and character vilified. The Patterson family of Baltimore stood high and honorable upon firm foundations of wealth and merit. The worthy head of that family, William Patterson, Esq., stood shoulder to shoulder with Robert Morris and Stephen Girard, of Philadelphia, with open purse, bearing the financial weight of the Revolution, and the subsequent dark days of the republic. He enjoyed in a high degree the friendship of Washington, La Fayette, and Carroll, and could claim companionship with Smallwood, Gist, Howard, Smith, and Williams. Though no soldier himself, his great wealth and popularity cheerfully marched to the music of Independence. He cordially welcomed the French fleet which landed the forces of Rocham-



beau at Newport in 1781; and, extending his hospitalities still further with those of his patriotic countrymen, welcoming Count de Estaing in the Chesapeake, he thus contributed largely to the surrender of Cornwallis, and to the independence of the New World, while adulation even failed to endow the Bonaparte family with that ancient and honorable ancestry which it essayed to claim. Napoleon well knew that his own abilities and performances would constitute about all the nobility he could boast, and he should have been wisely acting upon this knowledge at the time of Jerome's marriage.

In six days after the 29th of October 1803, the day on which, as before stated, the license for the marriage of Jerome with Miss Patterson issued, the father of the young lady received an anonymous communication which he carefully endorsed with the following words: "*Received this letter by the Penny Post, on Saturday, 5th November 1803, at one o'clock P. M.*"

"Is it possible, sir," inquires the writer, "you can so far forget yourself, and the happiness of your child, as to consent to her marrying Mr. Bonaparte? If you knew him, you never would, as misery must be her portion—he who but a few months ago destroyed the peace and happiness of a respectable family in Nantz by promising marriage, then ruined, leaving her to misery and shame. What has been his conduct in the West Indies? There ruined a lovely young woman who had only been married for a few weeks! He parted her from her husband, and



destroyed that family ! and here, what is his conduct ? At the very moment he was demanding your daughter in marriage he ruined a young French girl, whom he now leaves also in misery ! His conduct at Nantz and in the West Indies has already reached his brother's ears, and he dares not appear before him ! His voyage to this country proves it ! He now wishes to secure himself a home at your expense until things can be arranged for his return to France, when rest assured *he* will be the first to turn your daughter off, and laugh at your credulity ! Nothing that can be done will be binding on him ; and if you knew his moral character of dissipation, you would never ! no, never ! even with the approbation of his family, trust your daughter to him. Then take advice in time and break off everything before it is too late. Let nothing on earth tempt you to such an union ! What is here said may be depended upon, and much more might be said, for, without exception, he is the most profligate young man of the age. Demand seriously of Miss Wheeler, and you will there find he has already demanded her in marriage with the same intentions ! Will he marry your daughter at the Catholic church before the Bishop in *open day*, as did his friend ? I say no ! because he knows such a marriage would be in some measure binding upon him ; - but that he will not do, nor anything else that will appear against him. Trust not his honor ! there never was any in his family ! Yours, A FRIEND."

This letter is well written, in a bold hand, but without date. The writer appears to have been possessed



of some scholarly ability, but, judging from his production, he evidently labored to conceal it, and as much as possible disguise his penmanship.

After this letter had reposed in silence and oblivion for almost three-quarters of a century, perhaps disregarded from first to last by its custodians, it was sold in the Baltimore market, and purchased with the other letters quoted in this book; and the Bonaparte-Patterson correspondence, telling its stories of wonder to another generation, is still in perfect preservation.

Notwithstanding the "breaking off," and the warnings fulminated from various quarters, the contemplated marriage did take place on Saturday, Christmas Eve, December the 24th 1803. In the Baltimore "Federal Gazette" of Tuesday, the 27th day of that month, the marriage is thus noticed:

"Married, on Saturday evening last, by the Reverend Bishop Carroll, Mr. JEROME BONAPARTE, youngest brother of the First Consul of the French Republic, to Miss ELIZABETH PATTERSON, eldest daughter of William Patterson, Esquire, of this city."

No commentator upon the event adds another word in the same paper; but a writer in the *New American Cyclopædia* says: "The marriage ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Baltimore, John Carroll, brother of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, and in accordance with the ritual of the Roman Catholic Church. The marriage contract, considered of importance, was drawn up by Alexander J. Dallas, subsequently Secretary of the Treasury, and witnessed by several official personages, including the Mayor of Baltimore."





For a short season after the marriage, tranquillity appeared to be restored along the lines of gossip, and the monster Slander, fat from devouring the pyramid of his recent spoils, retired from the field—perhaps to go into hibernation for the winter. But not so fast! On the 14th of January 1804, about three weeks after the marriage, Mr. Patterson, the bride's father, feels the force of another anonymous missile, hurled at him with considerable violence, by some Frenchman, if we credit his own story, who appeared quite illiterate, perhaps as far only as handling the British language was concerned.

"Sir," writes he, dating as above, "this is to inform you as a friend that you must be aware of your son-in-law, as you may now turn him, *Bonaparty*, for he has made his brags and boastings, before his marriage, that he would get married to your daughter, and then \* \* \* \* he would leave her and go home to his brother in France. This he has told in public company before several; and likewise that when he goes to France, he will still be a single man, and she may then go to the devil for all he cares; and I and many others you may be assured must think the same—certainly of such a French fop of a fool. So therefore, as a friend, I warn you of him in time, as he has declared the above. Your friend, A FRENCHMAN."

Though coming from anonymous writers, the most contemptible class of characters that afflict society, these letters, in the light of surrounding circumstances, must have been very painful to Mr. Patterson. About this time Mr. Robert Patterson, his son, proceeds to



France, and Jerome takes his bride to Washington City, to visit General Tuerreau, the French Envoy to this country. On their way thither, in the rough coaches of the times, their experience must have been quite lively. Under date of Sunday, February 5th, 1804, General Samuel Smith, of Maryland, then in Congress, writes to the bride's father in Baltimore, as follows:—"Dear sir: Betsy's great presence of mind and firmness of character preserved her last night. Coming in after night, the coachman was thrown from the box. Mr. Bonaparte jumped out, but could not stop the horses. They went on, but regularly. Finding her danger increased, she opened the door, and jumped out into the snow, without receiving any injury."

On the subject of the marriage, Mr. Patterson, the bride's father, addresses a letter to Hon. Robert R. Livingston, of New York, American Minister to France, resident in Paris:

"Sir," writes he, dating Baltimore, February 10th 1804, "I take the liberty of enclosing you two letters that were transmitted to me from the Department of State at Washington, relating to the late marriage of Mr. Jerome Bonaparte with my daughter. The object of these letters, as I am informed, is to give you information on that subject, that you may be prepared to explain or repel any unfavorable or undue impression it might make on the mind of the First Consul, or any of the family, as it respects the heads of department, or myself. I am sorry I was not personally known to you in this country, as it might



have facilitated my wishes of reconciling Mr. Bonaparte's friends to the steps he has taken; yet I can assure you with truth, that I never, directly nor indirectly, countenanced or gave Mr. Bonaparte the smallest encouragement to address my daughter; but on the contrary, resisted his pretensions by every means in my power consistent with discretion. Finding, however, that the mutual attachment they had formed for each other was such, that nothing short of force and violence could prevent their union, I with much reluctance consented to their wishes. It is, however, now equally my duty and inclination to give the event that has taken place the best possible direction it is susceptible of; and for this purpose, and to reconcile Mr. Bonaparte's family to the match as far as may be practicable, may I therefore request your friendly attention in a suitable representation of the contents of these letters I have now the honor of enclosing you? and if necessary, and you should think it proper, that you will have the goodness to furnish the First Consul with copies of the President's and Secretary's letters to you; but this must be left entirely to your discretion, as I know not whether it would be perfectly proper or not. You will particularly oblige me by advising me of the result of your communications with Mr. Bonaparte's family; and whether his marriage is likely to meet with their approbation or not. I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your most humble servant."

It does not appear that Mr. Patterson had copies of the letters from the Department of State at Wash-



ington which he transmitted to Mr. Livingston at Paris; but in his own letter quoted above, he clearly states their object, and copies cannot be given here.

Thinkers in the United States appeared to be puzzled to determine the course the "Regulator of Europe" would take for revenge on account of Jerome's marriage to an American lady. Gossip, however, took high ground, and dealt largely in rumors, hailing from Paris and from Washington, to the effect that after a conquest of Britain, Napoleon would turn his arms against the United States.

This wedding stood perhaps without a parallel since the mythic days of old Troy, when the son of Priam, destined from his birth to set all Ilium in flames, was promised by the fickle Goddess of Beauty the fairest woman in the world for his wife. Helen, whom the multitudinous gods of Greece had endowed with the most extraordinary charms, when dancing at a festival in the Temple of Diana, was seized on account of her beauty and carried off by Theseus; but after a time was rescued and brought back by her brothers, Castor and Pollux. Rejecting an army of distinguished suitors, she at last became the wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta; but beauty, one of the greatest afflictions that can fall to the lot of a young lady, would not let her rest with a king. Paris, the gay and adventurous son of King Priam, travelling in the territories of Greece, violated the hospitalities of Sparta, and kindled the flames of war by carrying off Helen as his promised beauty; and a war of ten years' duration was waged against Troy, which re-





sulted in the destruction of the city and the restoration of Helen. French and American gossip therefore maintained that, but for the war between France and England at the time of Jerome's marriage, the French arms, on this account, would have been turned against the United States; and in leading to battle the armies of a great nation to revenge a marriage, Napoleon, in his fury, would have figured before the enlightened juries of another era as the full-blown antitype of Agamemnon.

As swift scuds of war appeared to fly across the canopies of imagination, Mr. Robert Patterson landed in France to inspect the signs of the times, and if possible feel the pulse of Napoleon on the subject of his sister's marriage. He arrived in Paris on the 11th day of March 1804. On the 12th he addressed a letter to his father in Baltimore.

"I arrived here yesterday," writes he, dating as above, "and immediately waited on our Minister. I found that in consequence of letters received from Mr. Madison and General Smith, he was making every exertion to reconcile Bonaparte to his brother's marriage. He has stated to the brothers of the Consul and the other distinguished characters about the court, that Mr. Jerome Bonaparte could not in America have made a more respectable connection than he has made; and to think of annulling his marriage would be scandalizing the most sacred of human engagements.

"Bonaparte is of a very irritable temper, and as he is at present highly incensed with his brother, he



might, were he here, take some violent measures with him—still, Mr. Livingston thinks he will after awhile become better satisfied with the union; and as he has by his conduct hitherto uniformly endeavored to impress on the world the highest idea of his moral character, he will not lightly, in this present affair, do anything to impeach or bring that character in question.

“When the account of Mr. Jerome Bonaparte’s intentions first reached the consular ear, he had determined to recall him instantly. Since the marriage has taken place, I believe it is his intention he should remain in America for some time. Mr. Joseph Bonaparte has consulted Mr. Livingston respecting the most eligible place for Jerome to reside at, and spoke of making a provision for him by investing 100,000 crowns in the American funds, but wished to know what Mr. Livingston thought necessary. Mr. Livingston observed, he ought in the first place to have a town-house to cost about \$30,000, and that a country-seat was indispensable to retire to in case of a yellow fever, which he estimated at \$25,000; and that to support this establishment, it would require from *twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars per annum*. To this the other replied, they intended he should live in America as a citizen of the United States, and they thought the calculation was much too high. I wish most sincerely Mr. Livingston may prevail on Mr. Bonaparte’s friends to invest a sufficiency in our stocks to produce \$20,000 per annum, as with that income he may live as happily in America as in



Europe; and I am convinced Mr. Livingston will endeavor to fix the sum as high as possible, should the scheme of investing a sum in the stocks of the United States for his permanent support be finally determined on. Mr. Livingston intends demanding an audience, when he will deliver Jerome Bonaparte's letter to the Consul which announces his marriage. This is the letter you sent Mr. Monroe. Mr. Livingston will do all in his power to reconcile him to the marriage. For the present, it will be much better the parties should remain in America; but should he be directed to return, I am clearly of opinion she ought to accompany him, as, his being here and without her, his affection might possibly suffer a diminution, which would be very dangerous in the present situation of things; and in case of not being recognised by his friends, which is placing it in the most possible point of view, she would have an asylum in the house of our Minister.

"I brought letters from Miss Monroe to Madame Louis Bonaparte, who was at the same academy with her, and to Madame Campan, their preceptor. This lady is sister to Genet, and is very intimate with the consular family. Mr. Skipwith is also very intimate with this lady, and has promised to introduce me to her. From her situation, she has it in her power, and will most probably be useful, as Miss Monroe speaks to her in the highest terms of my sister.

"This is intended to go by a Mr. Hinch, who goes direct to Baltimore from Bordeaux. He leaves this place early in the morning. In the course of a few



days I trust it will be in my power to give you some more satisfactory information. In the interim, I remain yours very affectionately."

It will be discovered that Mr. Robert Patterson, on reaching Paris, engaged immediately in the most delicate diplomacy. For the information of youthful readers, we will state that Minister Livingston, whom Mr. Patterson so frequently mentions in the above letter, was Chancellor Livingston, of New York, who, on the 30th of April 1789, administered the oath of office to General Washington, first President of the United States, on the balcony of the old Federal Hall in New York City. From Miss Monroe in England, daughter of Hon. James Monroe, then Minister to the Court of London, Mr. Patterson brought letters to Madame Louis Bonaparte, who was at the same academy with her, and to Madame Campan their preceptress, who had also been the preceptress of Jerome. This lady was the sister of Citizen Genet, who, during the administration of Washington, was the French Minister to this country, and who subsequently married the daughter of De Witt Clinton, of New York. Mr. Patterson met in Paris Fulwar Skipwith, Esq., Commercial Agent of the United States to France, and Paul Bentalou of Baltimore, who, during the Revolutionary War, was a distinguished officer in Count Pulaski's Legion of Cavalry. In the person of Captain Bentalou Mr. Patterson found a faithful friend, and an able interpreter of the French language.





## CHAPTER II.

Biographical sketch of the members of the Bonaparte family—Thoughts on Jerome's marriage—Robert Patterson's second letter—Hopes of reconciliation—Jerome to be established in America—Lucien Bonaparte's opinions—Paul Bentalou's hopeful letter—Dining with Lucien—Napoleon's displeasure manifest—Stirring appeal to arms—Britain to be conquered—Mr. Patterson's third letter—Mr. Livingston again—A call on Joseph Bonaparte—He is silent—Lucien's character—Silence in France—Robert goes to Amsterdam—French frigates plough towards New York—Napoleon's silence broken—Pichon in New York—French captains and the "young person."

As the names of the Bonaparte family are so frequently mentioned in the following pages, we depart from our main subject to give a short biographical sketch of each member belonging to it, at the time of Jerome's marriage. Carlo Bonaparte, of the island of Corsica, was the father of the Bonapartes of France. He was born in Ajaccio, the capital city of that island, on the 29th of March 1746. At that time the island was under the government of Genoa. Carlo studied law at the university of Pisa, and became one of the most popular jurists of his times. When about eighteen years of age, he fell in love with Letizia Ramolino, then in her fourteenth year; but in the Corsican war to throw off the yoke of Genoa, he was a Paolist, and she of the Genoese party; and for this reason their marriage did not take place for



several years later. In 1769, Corsica submitted to the dominion of France, and the children of Carlo Bonaparte were therefore born French subjects.

Joseph, the first child of Carlo and Letizia, was born at Corte, on the island of Corsica, January 7th 1768, and died in Florence, July 28th 1844. He was educated at Autun and Pisa, studied law at Ajaccio, and became a member of General Paoli's cabinet in 1792. He was married to the daughter of Monsieur Clary, a wealthy banker of Marseilles, who made his money as a ship broker. In 1797, he was elected from his native island to the Council of Five Hundred at Paris; but was soon sent by the French Directory as Ambassador to the Court of Rome. While Napoleon was in Egypt, Joseph returned from Rome, resumed his seat in the Council; and with his brother Lucien, inaugurated the scheme, which conducted Napoleon to the First Consulship of France. The success of this scheme made Joseph Chief Councillor of State; which office he held at the time of his brother Jerome's marriage. Coming to America about the year 1816, after the downfall of Napoleon, Joseph resided near Bordentown, New Jersey, till the year 1842. His park and grounds there comprised about 1500 acres of land; and his mansion was enriched with the most exquisite works of art in painting and sculpture, for the gratification of himself and friends.

Napoleon Bonaparte, second son of Carlo and Letizia, was born at Ajaccio, on the 15th of August 1769, and died on the island of St. Helena, May 5th 1821. Like other boys, Napoleon when quite young



took great delight in following companies of soldiers; and soon distinguished himself among his fellows by drilling them in stone-battles, and teaching them artillery practice by the use of a small brass cannon. He was principally educated at the royal college in his native city, the college of Autun, and the military school at Brienne, where he was generally unpopular on account of a morose and thoughtful temper of mind, operating as in search of some medium through which it could spy out the future. As a boy, he seldom formed strong attachments, or communicated his secrets to others, evincing in this respect a remarkable and unusual caution. Completing his studies at the military school in Paris, he was made a lieutenant in the French army; and, distinguished as a mathematician and military engineer, he rapidly promoted himself, stepping from one rank to another, with ease, if convenient, or with force, if necessary. He fell far behind the general literary accomplishments of his contemporaries of like rank, caring little or nothing for those sciences which adorn and enrich the heart; yet we find him, at a very early age, stealing interviews with a young lady, and indulging in the sentimental by eating with her certain "innocent cherries." He commenced writing a history of the island of Corsica, and submitted a sample of his work to the inspection of General Paoli, but failed to finish it for some reason not given. In 1792, he was made a captain of artillery, a colonel of infantry in 1793, and in 1794 a brigadier-general of artillery. From these beginnings he made the most rapid strides towards



supremacy; and whether or not Europe in his day stood in need of such a character, he was emphatically the breaker of hardshells, and the nurse of new-fledged monarchies. Becoming suddenly armed with the most extraordinary powers, he confused the boldest thinkers; broke ancient lines at will, unseating, and, if we may be allowed the expression, *unworlding*, the kings of Europe in his march.

On the 9th of March 1796, when within a few strides of the summit of his fame and glory as the master of Europe, he married Josephine Beauharnais, a beautiful native of the island of Martinique; and in less than a week after left her in France to take command of the army of Italy, then lying in the defiles of the Alps and the Ligurian Apeninnes. In 1797 he returned to Paris as the "Liberator of Italy;" having in the campaign won a number of the most brilliant victories on record, making the French arms formidable to the world. On the 16th of December 1809 his obedient Senate passed at command *an act* divorcing him from his wife, and poor Josephine retired broken-hearted to Malmaison; and from that hour the star of Napoleon's glory began to decline.

Unlike the sacred biographers, those of our day drop at each successive step a few words of censure from the characters of their respective heroes until all are gone, and they are at last made to stand forth before another generation purified by the pen. Thus bad great men who fail to obtain justification at the hands of a generation which they have injured, are led to hope for a cleansing ablution in the dynamic





current of history. Casting his swaths of dying men behind him, Napoleon mowed his way to thrones regardless perhaps of even the accusing voice of history, or the warnings from an eternal hereafter; yet he knew the busy pen would labor through long centuries to purify his character, and engrave his name on the star-clad heights of canonization. Such was the man with whom Jerome's wife must deal.

Lucien Bonaparte, another son of Carlo, was born May 19th 1775, and died at Viterbo, July 29th 1840. In 1797 he was also elected to the Council of Five Hundred, and in 1800 he was sent Ambassador to Spain. His<sup>x</sup> first wife was the daughter of an inn-keeper at Toulon. These parties for a few years lived very unhappy together, and in 1797 she died of ill treatment and neglect on the part of her husband, who in 1803 was married the second time to the widow Jourbothon, a rich banker. Refusing to participate in Napoleon's imperial designs, he went to Italy in 1804, where he lived in great style; and it will be seen that this fact is mentioned in some of the letters relating to Jerome's marriage.

Elisa Bonaparte, sister of Napoleon, was born January 3d 1777, and died on the 7th of August 1820. In 1797, she married M. Bacciochi, a nobleman, hailing from her native island. In 1805, she was made Princess of Lucca and Piombino; and such she was when her name was written in cipher by Mr. Robert Patterson in the correspondence relating to his sister's marriage to Jerome.

Louis Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon I. and



father of Napoleon III., was born on the 2d day of September 1778, and died at Leghorn, July 25th 1846. At an early age, he entered the French army, and was with Napoleon in Egypt. On the 7th day of January 1802, the 34th anniversary of his brother Joseph's birth, he married Hortense Eugenia Beauharnais, Queen of Holland. This he did in compliance with the wishes of Napoleon; but the union was very unhappy; and, estranged from the affections of her husband, she subsequently lived a dissolute life in Paris. When the empire of France was declared in 1805, Louis was made Governor of Piedmont, and in 1806, King of Holland.

Paulina Bonaparte, another sister of Napoleon, was born October 20th 1780, and died in Florence, June 9th 1825. In 1797, she married General Leclerc, the commander of the expedition against St. Domingo. This lady was styled "the extraordinary perfection of beauty." General Leclerc died in 1802, and in 1803, Paulina married Camillo Borghese, but their domestic life was unhappy, and they soon separated.

Carolina Bonaparte, the youngest sister of the family, was born on the 26th of March 1782, and died May 18th 1839. She married General Murat, the son of an hostler at an inn, but was made Queen of Naples in 1808.

It will be seen now, that, at the time of Jerome's marriage, the Bonaparte family consisted of Letizia, the mother, and eight children, viz.: Joseph, Napoleon, Louis, Lucien, Jerome, Elisa, Paulina, and Carolina. Napoleon was the chief of the family, not



however by seniority, but by fortune. Feeling himself the acknowledged master of Europe, proudly supported on his pedestal of fame, he conducted an unlicensed traffic in crowns; and, holding his sceptre over a vast empire of mind also, he unsettled the domestic tranquillity of individuals, and loosened the morals of his age. He dealt profanely with the institution of marriage, whose foundation, he knew, had been divinely laid in some grand primeval age, when Love sung her holy lullabies over the first forms of life, and the harmonies of Heaven responded. Trifling with the institution of marriage must sooner or later bring upon the trifler a punishment equal to that which once came down to check the drinking of unhallowed wine from the Holy Grails of Jerusalem. If Jerome had been left free to deal with his own marriage, and meet its responsibilities, in his individual capacity, the world of eyes would have discovered his real character, and received a profit from the discovery. On approaching Napoleon, ostensibly for the purposes of reconciliation, it will be seen that the young man was further demoralized by the unholy light thrown upon his marriage, and the imperial raid upon family altars built over the up-welling fountains of feminine purity.

The young adventurer was commercially and socially a citizen of the United States. Politically and legally he was a citizen of France. He could not have been held to military duty in the United States, for this would have been in antagonism to the claims of his native country, to which he owed allegiance, or, per-



haps, it would have been in violation of treaty stipulations.

Commercial and social contracts entered into in compliance with the statutes and usages of one nation, have invariably been held as binding in another; and this rule has been more particularly observed with respect to marital contracts. The same principles are also recognised by states, or political divisions of nations. Parties, therefore, finding the laws of one state hostile to their marital negotiations, have gone into another to complete them; but on their return at pleasure, have not been charged with a violation of the law of domicile. In order to the validity of contracts, it has not been deemed necessary that the parties thereto should take an oath of allegiance to the constitution and government of the country, or division of country, in which they may temporarily reside at the time of making them; but on leaving such nation or state, in which their contracts were made, to go to the place of their nativity, or elsewhere, "their works do follow them." When Mr. Dallas drew up Jerome's marriage contract, he did not deem an oath of allegiance to the country, or any form of naturalization whatever, necessary in order to its fulfilment. A compliance with the laws of the state of Maryland, a state to which the organic law of the nation, of which it was a division, had guaranteed a certain degree of sovereignty, and a compliance with the divine ritual of the church of his choice, were the only conditions necessary to the entire validity of the marriage contract, and the marriage itself;





and nothing short of violence could sunder the parties in any nation. During the residence of Jerome in America, it is not clearly seen how either his contracts or his torts, or his minority, could violate the laws of France. He might have violated them in the act of coming hither, in the length of his stay, in the neglect of French interests, or the destruction of French property in his custody, so as to incur a punishment on his return; but the laws of France, should he return, could not, we think, operate upon him, so as to annul a contract made on American soil solely in his individual capacity. If a Frenchman under twenty or even twenty-five years of age, could not marry in his own country without the consent of his parents or guardians, did the statutes of France declare at that time, or at any other, he could not, or must not, should he happen to go there, do so in another country, over which the French flag did not display itself? We think not. Can an individual contract made on American soil in strict compliance with the laws of the country, be set aside so as to destroy its binding effect in every nation? Napoleon did put the French statutes in motion in his Council of State to annul the marriage of Jerome; but may we not venture to assert that he failed for want of an *offence*? In calling his Council for action upon this subject, we think it was more the object of Napoleon to *create*, than to *punish* an offence. An attempt to nullify a *contract* is a virtual admission of its validity. As a jurist, he had already declared that the marriage, as far as the laws of France were concerned, was null and void.



This all men admitted, for the marriage did not take place in France. Why then employ a grave council of state to nullify that which was already a nullity? This is what thinkers thought. If a marriage solemnized in America was valid in Rome, why was it not valid also in Paris? The same authority which sanctioned its validity in the United States did the same in France. But the act of nullification was rashly passed in Paris, perhaps, before a ray of holy light from the Court of Rome had fairly touched an outline of the subject. No violations of French statutes had taken place on French soil, nor upon the high seas under Gallic colors; and so, we think the Pope of Rome thought. What therefore could he say under the circumstances, and what could he consistently do? He was called upon to anathematize something, which never had been, nor never could be construed into a violation of either civil or ecclesiastical law in any country. He persistently refused to sanction by his authority the rash act of the French Council; and when Jerome knocked for admission at the gates of France, around his marriage clustered all the force and majesty of law.

Returning from our temporary digression, we take up the line of our subject by stating that Mr. Robert Patterson's first letter from France to his father in Baltimore, quoted in the preceding chapter, was dated Paris, March 12th 1804. Under date of the 14th of the same month he writes again from the same place:

"Dear Father: I wrote you on the 12th inst.,



acquainting you with my arrival here on the preceding day, and giving you what information I had collected relative to what brought me hither.

“I am happy to have it now in my power to say something more satisfactory on the same subject. On returning to my apartments this morning, after an absence from them for a few minutes, I found a note from Mr. Lucien Bonaparte, couched in the most polite terms, requesting I would call on him, which I accordingly did, taking with me Mr. Bentalou. He told us the Consul was displeased with his brother's marriage, but that himself, his mother, and the rest of the family were very glad of it; and that since he was married he must treat his wife with tenderness and affection. They wish him to become a citizen of the United States, and intend purchasing a quantity of the American funds for him. I believe it is not intended that he shall have any control over anything more than the interest of whatever sum may be invested in this manner, but rather suspect some other person will be appointed to hold them in trust for him, and that person will most probably be yourself. I am not sorry Jerome is to remain in America, as I consider he will be just as well there as in Europe. From what I have here stated you will perceive things are in as fortunate a train as we possibly could have expected. Mr. Bentalou and myself are to dine with Mr. Lucien Bonaparte to-morrow. I shall send this to Bordeaux to be forwarded.”

This letter was not received at Bordeaux until the 31st day of March. On the same day, it was for-



warded, by Messrs. Andrews & Cooke, for America; and Count Pulaski's old captain, Paul Bentalou, of Baltimore, then in Paris, as previously stated, next writes to Mr. Patterson, the bride's father.

Dating Paris, March 16th 1804, he begins: "I wish with all my heart that this, which I will forward by duplicate, may reach you with all possible speed, with my most sincere and heartfelt congratulations to you and Mrs. Patterson on the glad tidings, I am authorized and indeed particularly requested to impart to you. Your son Robert will tell you that since his arrival, we have together been very active, and to him I leave the task of relating to you the particulars of what passed with our Minister, Mr. Livingston; which upon the whole were of an alarming and desponding nature, and terminated by telling your son that the displeasure of the whole family was manifest, and of a nature, he feared, not to be overcome; and that, after having freely communicated with Joseph, the only favor he could obtain was, that your son could, privately and alone, go to see him, and that he would give his porter orders accordingly! I confess I felt shocked at the proposal! and observed with some warmth that I thought it would be unbecoming for your son to introduce himself in that mysterious way, and perhaps meet with a humiliating reception; and that as the whole family were now apprised of his being here, if any of them wished to see him, it was in their place to express it. Upon this the Minister made some observation which I pass in silence, and was glad to find your son perfectly to coincide





with my opinion—the more so, as in a short time after we had left the Minister's house, your son returned to me with a note from Lucien of which this is the literal translation: *Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Bonaparte are extremely desirous to have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Patterson, brother-in-law of Mr. Jerome. They will both remain at home the whole morning in hopes he will have the goodness to call on them.*—Dated 23d Ventose, 14th of March. We instantly got ready, and together were admitted into a private room, where we found Mr. Lucien, and told him as I knew he could not speak English, neither could your son speak French, I as an intimate friend of the family had taken the liberty of accompanying him. We were received with all possible affability. Through me, he addressed your son in the most flattering manner, and in a strain which conveyed every appearance of candor and sincerity. Our conversation lasted a long time, the essential part of which I will now endeavor to relate in his own words:

“He said to me, *Tell Mr. Patterson, and let his father know, that our mother, myself and the whole family, with one voice, and as heartily as I do, highly approve of the match. The Consul, it is true, does not for the present concur with us, but he is to be considered as isolated from his family. Placed on the lofty ground on which he stands as the first magistrate of a great and powerful nation, all his actions and ideas are directed by a policy with which we have nothing to do. We still remain plain citizens; and, as such, from all we have learned of the young lady's*



*character and the respectability of her friends, we are, and feel highly gratified with the connection—that they need not in the least be hurt by the displeasure of the Consul ; that myself, although of an age to be my own master, and occupying distinguished places under the government, I have also, by my late marriage, incurred his displeasure, so that Jerome is not alone. But, as when we do marry, we are to consult our own happiness and not that of another, it matters not who else is, or is not, to be displeased. Our present earnest wish is that Jerome may remain where he now is, and take the proper steps to become, as soon as possible, a citizen of the United States.*

“Here I interrupted him by observing that it was not such an easy matter as he perhaps thought—that it required an ordeal of seven years previous thereto ; and that then he would have formally to swear fidelity to the United States, and to a renunciation of all titles of nobility, places of honor or profit, allegiance or attachment to all other countries, and particularly to the one of his nativity.

“*Very well, retorted Lucien, Jerome must do all that ; he must go through that noviciate. The dignified attainment of a citizen of the United States is well worth it. His situation is much preferable to ours. We are yet on a tempestuous sea, and he is safely moored into a safe, and incomparably happy harbor. He must positively change his mode of living, and must not, as he has hitherto done, act the part of a prince of royal blood ; not to think himself anything more than he really is, and to strive as soon as possible*



*to assimilate himself to the plain and uncorrupted manners of your incomparable nation, of which we will all rejoice to see him a worthy member. We are now making arrangements to provide genteelly for him. We wish him to live on equal footing with your most respectable citizens, but never beyond any of them.*

“He then gave me to understand that they had taken pains to inquire what would be necessary, and it seems they are thinking of giving him a country house, and a house in town, and an annual income of *fifteen thousand dollars*. He asked my advice upon that, and I told him I thought the allowance fully adequate. He added that as they wished to have a permanent capital lodged in America, they had already applied to purchase of the newly created funds for the Louisiana acquisition, and found that they were above par. I observed to him that probably, in a short time, they would have a chance of purchasing under par from American claimants, now in distress in Paris, some of the bills to be issued by our Minister; and that by remitting to you whatever they may have a mind to send, they cannot place it in more safe hands, nor more judicious, to **invest advantageously**; either in public funds, bank, or insurance stocks, than under your direction. In short, my dear sir, I think they will send that way much more than necessary to provide for Jerome.

“We were asked to dine there on the next day, which was yesterday. He was not in when we were introduced, but we were equally well received by his



lady and family. Shortly after, he came in, and very soon invited us into a private apartment; when, after having reiterated generally what he had said on the previous day, on which I had taken occasion of telling him of your son's proper reluctance to appear before his brother Joseph in the manner advised by our Minister, he reminded me of it; and said that he had conversed with his brother on the subject, and was directed by him to assure us that the Minister had certainly misunderstood him. That he had said that, *from the etiquette established by the higher authority, none of the family could allow any foreign minister to introduce to them any person who had not been previously introduced to the First Consul; but that his brother Joseph was very anxious to see Mr. Patterson; that he had just left his house before we came in, and desired him to tell us that he had gone to Malmaison to remain there with the Consul till this evening, and that to-morrow at twelve he will expect us.* I shall attend your son there, and leave to him the care of relating to you the result, which I have no doubt will be as satisfactory as the two interviews we have already had with Lucien.

“I beg you, and you will see the propriety of keeping to yourself, that part of my narrative which relates to our Minister, for I assure you I would not, for any consideration, have said anything that would in any way offend him. He and his family are extremely kind to myself and Mrs. Bentalou, as they generally are to all their fellow-citizens; and I can with truth assure you, that in this affair he has evinced a zeal so





as to deserve your manifest gratitude. But you will perceive that as matters stood, and as I have above related, in his official capacity, he could not act. It required a plain individual, acquainted with both languages, to conduct your son to that source of information without which it were impossible your mind could have been content.

"I now conclude in assuring you that no man can more sincerely rejoice than I do at our happy success, or more affectionately at your service, than your friend and well-wisher.

"Reading over my letter, I perceive I have omitted to mention to you, that Lucien informed me, and requested me particularly to tell you, that yesterday their despatches for Jerome were sent away; that the Consul, *as Consul*, caused his Minister to direct the Chargé d'Affaires in the United States to express his displeasure to Jerome; which must be considered by you as a matter of form; but that by the same conveyance, Jerome would receive from his family comfortable letters, and such as all of you can wish for. It is wished that the picture of your daughter may be sent to them as soon as possible."

The views of Lucien as given by Captain Bentalou in the preceding letter may have been obtained by reflection from the chief of the family, but their diplomacy in this case, as in all others, we think, left the observer at a loss to determine whether light breezes only, or deep and angry thunders, were betokened. Quick as the compound which rendered his artillery deadly, uncertain also as the flash which blasts the



grand old oak in summer, and for ever restless in search of affinities, Napoleon's temper would flash fearfully even in the pursuit of small game; and, like the mettled steed of antiquity, bound along where there were paths, and where there were none. Like the ancient penman's mountain in convulsions to release a little mouse from life in embryo, thinkers began to think, that he would establish from his course of conduct with respect to Jerome's marriage, some novel and ridiculous precedent that would operate to his discredit down the long ages. It was thought by some that Jerome would not be allowed to escape the punitive force of the consular will, if nothing more was done than to adopt the pathless course of treating him as a deserter from the naval service of France. About this time, Napoleon set the blood of France on fire, by the most stirring appeals to arms that the vehicle of language could convey, which it was thought would lure Jerome, peacefully, from fidelity to his wife into the fields of glory.

'Soldiers!' says Order No. 39, issued from *head quarters of the centre*, "the sea is passed! The boundaries of nature have yielded to the genius and fortune of the hero, the saviour of France! and haughty England already groans under the yoke of her conquerors! London is before you! That Peru of the old world is your prey! Within *twenty* days I plant the tri-colored flag on the walls of her execrable tower! March: the road to victory is open. In order to render that happy victory certain and inevitable, your commander here offers you some advice, *Brave Centre*, at the same time that he



renews, upon enemy's soil, the sacred promises that you have already twice received from the august head of the state.

“Once more I pledge the faith of government, which only reserves to itself, among the enormous treasures that you are on the eve of conquering, the arms and fleets of the enemy; while it destines their monuments of the arts to decorate the temples of the capital of the world, and to become an eternal record of your victories. Towns, fields, provisions, cattle, gold and silver—I abandon all to you! Occupy those noble mansions, those smiling farms. The properties, the families of your enemies are all your own—all is destined for your wealth, or for your enjoyment. An impure race, rejected by heaven, and which has dared to be the enemy of Bonaparte, will expiate its crimes by disappearing from the earth. Yes, I swear to you, that you shall soon become terrible!

“Soon—and the hour of a just retribution already strikes—the signal shall be given. Expect it in the posture of a tiger, and observe also his silence: then spring upon your prey, give way to your feelings, take your enjoyments, and gather without risk the mellow fruits of victory; all will then become your duty except senseless pity, equally unjust to your country and cruel to injured humanity. May the enemy of France perish to its foundation! May the name of England be lost and forgotten. Know that *Heaven* and the *First Consul* have conspired for its ruin and total oblivion. Then may that guilty island, *formerly wrested by the sea from France, purged from*



*the monsters that inhabit it, return within its legitimate boundaries, having expiated its numberless crimes.* May it be regenerated by that master-stroke of policy that can only render it worthy of becoming once more a portion of the continent, and a province of France. Perhaps its proud conquerors may not disdain to carry to it their generous race. Perhaps they may derive a sentiment of joy from compelling the wives and daughters of the conquered to give Frenchmen to France. Soldiers! the country is your own! My brave companions, let those inhabit it who will. It is Bonaparte who gives me authority to insure to every one who desires to reside in these beautiful plains as faithful colonists of France a house, furniture and lands; in short, a lot, splendid and secure. They shall, moreover, be permitted to carry off without molestation every article of which they may be possessed at the disbanding of the army, not excepting the women of the enemy whom they may honor with their partiality."

We think it will be seen hereafter that the above appeal, and the like, were part of the vast machinery employed to fire the heart of Jerome, and thus quietly bring him from America. To throw as much light on this strange subject as possible, we again make a short digression into the wilds, by remarking that the First Consul, perched upon a giddy spire of nobility, had resolved to force each of his brothers to marry some European princess; and that, at this time, the views of marriage entertained by a certain class of adventurers into American society were often as





sickly as odors fresh from the blooming ailanthus, or the deleterious upas. It was not therefore very strange that some men thought Jerome would yield to argument by leaving his wife in America to marry a European princess, and receive as a reward a kingdom in Britain, after the tri-colored flag was planted on the execrable tower of London. It was impossible to discover Jerome's own motives, or how far they might go to unsettle or change the consular purposes with respect to his marriage. His character, antecedents and designs down to that time appeared to be but little known in America, except what anonymous writers declared; but the word *he*, and the only one italicised by the writer, did not probably fail in time to have its effect upon the mind of the reader. It appears evident that upon hearing of his marriage, the Bonaparte family in concert determined that Jerome should remain in America, and mingle no longer in the society of France. Lucien had already declared that the family was then on a "tempestuous sea," and that Jerome, under the circumstances, should be provided for and domiciled in America, was a wise and natural conclusion. That he should be disposed of in this manner was the opinion of Mr. Robert from the beginning, and he never changed it. The attention of the reader is again respectfully called to the reading of his third letter.

Dating "Paris, March 16th 1804," he writes again to his father in Baltimore. He says, "I wrote you on the 14th instant *via* Bordeaux. In that letter I mentioned my having received a very polite note from



Mr. Lucien Bonaparte, requesting me to wait on him ; in consequence of which I did so, taking with me Mr. Bentalou. He observed, Jerome's marriage had given the First Consul great displeasure ; but that neither himself, his mother, nor the rest of the family were by any means dissatisfied with it. Mr. Lucien is in a similar situation with Jerome. He married without his brother's approbation, and his wife has not as yet been recognised by the Consul. Since the rest of the family are pleased with the marriage, I think there can be little doubt of the First Consul's being eventually reconciled to it, as his moral character is irreproachable, and it is scarcely possible to suppose that he would stain that character by doing away so sacred a contract as that of matrimony. The family intend Mr. Jerome shall remain in America, and become a citizen of the United States. They mean to invest a sufficiency in our stocks to produce him an income of about \$15,000 per annum. I believe it is not their intention that the principal should be subject to his control. You will most probably be appointed to hold in trust for him whatever stock may be purchased. Mr. Bentalou and myself had the honor of dining with Mr. Lucien Bonaparte yesterday. I was highly flattered with the attention shown me. He observed, at parting, that he should expect to see me every three or four days, and if I disappointed him he would be obliged to quarrel with me.

“Mr. Livingston has had no conversation with the Consul relative to his brother's marriage. He wishes



to reconcile him to it by means of his ministers. They inform Mr. Livingston that when they have introduced the subject he has remained silent, which they taking as an indication of his displeasure have dropped it. Mr. Livingston is entitled to our warmest thanks for his zeal to serve us in this business."

Dating the 17th, Mr. Patterson continues his letter on the same sheet: "I called at Mr. Joseph Bonaparte's this morning without having the pleasure of seeing him. I was, however, very politely received by Madame, who regretted that Mr. Bonaparte was obliged to be at that time from home, particularly as he was very desirous of seeing me. We have every reason to be pleased with the situation of this affair at present, and think you may make yourself perfectly easy as to the result.

"I have been asked if I have the portrait of Madame Jerome, more than once. The family are desirous of seeing a miniature of her. If one has not been taken already, it may not be amiss to have it done, and sent either to some of the family or to me, that I may present them with it."

Pausing for a moment or more to inspect public opinion, we find it drifting in the direction that the marriage of Jerome Bonaparte of France to Miss Patterson of America, at this early day in the history of the latter country, was a mild specific providentially administered to check irregularities in republican society. Opinion took another direction, and hinted that the wrath of the First Consul, which was rapidly gathering, would dismiss Jerome from the



service, and hurl him violently from French associations, even before the beginning of the first dog-watch in the day of his glory; but it will be seen hereafter that this was not the consular purpose.

From the 17th to the 28th of March Mr. Robert Patterson remains silent, waiting for an opportunity perhaps to dine with Mr. Joseph Bonaparte. The French mind was now inclining to the opinion that Napoleon would soon define his position with respect to the marriage, and make himself guilty of a vast expenditure of power upon the subject. In this state of uncertainty Mr. Patterson writes again to his father. Dating "Paris, March 28th 1804;" he writes: "On Saturday I had the honor of dining with Mr. Joseph Bonaparte. None of the family were present but his lady. It is a little singular he did not throughout the evening speak a word of his brother's marriage, and only mentioned his name when I was departing, to request I would forward him the letter which I now enclose. As he possesses the confidence of the First Consul, he probably for this reason declined saying anything on that subject, lest I might imagine he gave the sentiments of his brother. My being admitted to his table cannot but argue more favorably to our wishes than otherwise; though it had been infinitely more satisfactory and pleasing had he been less reserved.

"Lucien is a firm and decided character. On all occasions he thinks and acts independently. On this one he nobly and candidly uttered what he thought. The consular recognition or disavowal of the marriage





will probably be determined by future occurrences. Much will depend on Jerome. If he acts the part of an honorable man everything must go right.

"It is the duty of my sister, as a wife, to retain and increase the affections of her husband; and her exertions ought, if possible, to be doubled, from the peculiarity of her situation.

"They are perfectly acquainted with your history. Lucien the other evening, asked me if our family were not originally from Ireland. I replied that you came when very young to the United States from that country; but that my mother was a native American."

From the first of January to the date of the preceding letter, the writer says he had no accounts from his father. Mr. Patterson, it appears, wrote very little on the subject of his daughter's marriage; and the avenues of information to Robert in Paris, just about this time, became almost suddenly closed. Scaling his surroundings in finely-wrought balances, he found uncertainty so heavy that all other commodities kicked the beam, and he departed for Amsterdam to bide his time. Mr. Bentalou, the cheerful and ever hopeful friend of the Patterson family, is silent, and Minister Livingston is the same; but certain French frigates are ploughing the deep towards New York.

Minister Livingston has not yet answered Mr. Patterson's letter to him under date of February 10th 1804. It is the middle of April, and the young couple, returning from Washington, are about to set off on a northern tour. Napoleon's silence on the subject of



the marriage was so deep and unbroken, that certain parties interested in the affair, reclined to repose; but others, alarmed by "the voice of silence," kept wide awake, conscious that some slumbering tempest was about to break forth and sing his war-song on the face of the deep.

Napoleon spoke at last, and gave out to one of his ministers the wonderful facts detailed in the next chapter. *Pichon, the French Consular General in New York is instructed to withhold Jerome's supplies, and the commanders of French vessels are prohibited from receiving on board the "young person," to whom he has attached himself!*



### CHAPTER III.

Letter from M. Dacres to citizen Pichon—Strict orders—Jerome's pay withheld—He is ordered home—His wife to be left in the United States—Not to put her foot on the territory of France—French captains not to receive her on board their vessels—Jerome is implored to return alone to France—Letter from M. Dacres to Jerome—Napoleon's opinions of the marriage—Letters of Dacres intercepted by a British commander—He copies them—The secret out—Mr. Patterson writes to Jerome—Gives the extent of his information—Hope runs high—Chancellor Livingston recalled from France—General Armstrong succeeds him—Mr. Livingston writes to Mr. Patterson—He sends Joseph Bonaparte's letter—Its translation.

HEADING his letter, "*For yourself only,*" and dating "Paris, April 20th 1804," M. Dacres, French Minister of Marine, writes to Citizen Pichon, "French Consular-General at New York." "I have taken," writes he, "the orders of the First Consul, citizen, concerning the demand you made on me for the appointment of an allowance to be granted to Citizen Jerome Bonaparte; and, bound to obey the orders which he has given me in a way that showed it was not his intention that the slightest modification should have place, either in my mode of transmitting them to you, or in the execution of them, I discharge my duty in notifying to you his resolution that no money shall be advanced on the order of Citizen Jerome.

"He has received orders in his capacity of lieutenant of the fleet, to come back to France by the first



French frigate that was returning thither; and the execution of this order, on which the First Consul insists in the most positive manner, can alone regain him his affection. But what the First Consul has prescribed to me, above everything, is to order you to prohibit all captains of French vessels from receiving on board the young person to whom the Citizen Jerome has connected himself, it being his intention that she shall by no means come into France, and his will, that should she arrive, she be not suffered to land, but be sent immediately back to the United States.

“After having thus notified to you the intentions of the First Consul, and having ordered you to attend to the arrangements he has made, it remains for me to invite you to employ for the persuasion of the Citizen Jerome, every expedient which your wisdom, your prudence and excellent judgment shall suggest. I have written him to this purpose, and have represented to him that the glorious and brilliant career to which his destiny calls him, requires of him a necessary sacrifice, due also to his interest, his personal glory, and the designs of the *Hero* to whom he has the honor to be related. Explain to him, that having been absent for several years, he little knows the First Consul, whose inflexibility can be compared to nothing but the vastness of his conceptions. Cherishing important and profound meditations, he considers himself as having no family but the French people; everything unconnected with the glory and the happiness of France is indifferent to him. In proportion as he delights in exalting and honoring those of his





relations who participate those sentiments with him, does he feel coldness for those who do not partake them, or who walk in a different path from that which his genius has traced out for himself. Unwearied fabricator of his own glory, he bewails in secret that he sees not his example followed with the same perseverance by those of his own blood; he is indignant at the obstacles thrown in his way by what he calls their effeminacy; and he declares against beholding them otherwise engaged than in following the steps of his career.

“Citizen Joseph, his eldest brother, distinguished by the eminent services he has rendered in his council, by diplomatic meditations and labors, known to all Europe by the treaties he has concluded, invested with the senatorial robe and of the first rank in the legion of honor, has seemed to him as not yet sufficiently clothed with glory, and wishing to crown him with that for which every one may find instruments in perils, hardships, and genius, he has just given him one of the regiments to bear into England the national vengeance.

“General Louis, general of division, known until now by military glory, is about to add to that of the statesman, and has just been admitted into the council section of legislation.

“Citizen Lucien, with the reputation of past conduct, and a fortune perfectly independent, has formed connexions repugnant to the views of the First Consul; and the consequence is, that he has just quitted France; and that, obliged to abandon the theatre of



the glory of his own family, he has exiled himself to Rome, where he becomes the simple spectator of the destinies of his august brother, and the Empire.

“These examples will inform Jerome what his brother expects of him, and what he may expect of his brother. Young as yet, and of an age when the laws authorize not a marriage to which relations have not consented, he has indiscreetly and rashly contracted one (these are the Consul’s words); he has abandoned the labors which the country required of him. Yielding to an irrational passion, he has without doubt acted grievously wrong, but his youth shall be suffered to plead his excuse, provided he is wise enough not to disobey the voice which calls him.

“Ashamed of his indolence, too long protracted, let him seize the first occasion of returning to share the labors whereof he should have given an example, and he will recover his brother in the head of the state. It is the only means to consecrate the ties which unite them.

“As his friend, as devoted to his family, as his superintendent in fine, in the career which he has embraced, I have a right to expect a quiet hearing from Jerome, and I entreat that he will execute the orders he has received, and follow my advice. I see his brother every day, and if I give him no prospect of bending that brother, by a different conduct, it is because, in truth, I have perceived that he is in this respect inflexible.

“‘*Jerome is wrong,*’ said he to me, ‘*to fancy that he will find in me affections that will yield to his weak-*



ness. *The relation in which I stand to him does not admit of parental condescension; not possessing the authority of a father over him, I cannot feel for him a father's affection. A father is blind, and takes a pleasure in blinding himself because his son and he are identified. They have given and received so much reciprocally that they form but one person; but as to me, what am I to Jerome? what identity can subsist between us? Sole fabricator of my destiny, I owe nothing to my brothers. In what I have done for glory, they have found means to reap for themselves an abundant harvest; but they must not on that account abandon the field when there is something to be reaped. They must not leave me insulated, and deprived of the aid and services which I have a right to expect from them. They cease to be anything to me, if they press not around my person, and if they follow a path that is opposite to mine. If I require so much from those of my brothers who have already rendered so many services, if I completely abandon him who in maturer years has thought proper to withdraw himself from my direction, what has Jerome to expect? So young, as yet, and only known by forgetfulness of his duties, assuredly if he does nothing for me, I see it in the decree of fate which has determined that I ought to do nothing for him.'*

"This is what the Hero has said and repeated to me in divers conversations. The solemnity of these confidential communications he has condescended to make to me on this subject, has struck me, and I repose them in your bosom that you may seize the



moment and the manner of impressing them upon Jerome. What gratitude will he not owe to you if you succeed in persuading him! I know not what degree of resistance you will experience, but let him be well persuaded that it is more from personal attachment than from that duty, that I insist with him on such details. My duty might be limited to transmitting to him the orders and arrangements of the First Consul, but this long effusion can proceed from no other motive but my friendship for him. The Consul would end by forgetting him, and he is occupied by so many great objects, that this oblivion, painful at first, would settle into habit, and this is what I fear.

“If the delirium of the passion should render him inaccessible to the voice of reason, you have only one thing to represent to him, which is, that the passions cease, or at least decline, and that in this case the consequence would be endless. Jerome is very young, his life will be long, and I, who know his brother much better than he himself knows him, am certain that should he not comply with his wishes, he is storing up for himself the most poignant regret. Moreover, if, unfortunately for Jerome, he should prolong his stay in the United States during the war, if peace should be made before his return, what a grief for him to have passed with a woman a season of dangers; and what regret does he not prepare, even for the woman herself, when humbled by his obscurity, he shall one day impute to her, were it even involuntary and secret at the bottom of his heart, the indolent part to which





he shall have been reduced by the passion wherewith she inspired him ! And even if he loves this woman, let him learn, for her sake, to quit her. Let him return and keep near his brother—he will give him credit for the sacrifice, and from the sentiments of good will and friendship which will thence result, it has not forbidden him to conceive hopes. *But let him not bring her along with him. Be her accomplishments what they may, they would produce no effect, for most assuredly the order is given to prevent her landing, and it would be fresh trouble, and a disobedience too gross of the orders of the First Consul to have any other effect than an irritation extremely unpleasant for what is and ought to be most dear to the heart of Jerome.*

“I repeat to you, citizen, I recommend the object of this letter to your careful attention, and to your solid judgment, as to the use you shall make of it. I have entered into no detail on the nature of the illegality of the connection in question, because I treat this affair in a sentimental manner merely ; but I have some difficulty to conceive how the father of the young person has brought himself to yield to an union reprobated by our laws, and which the dignity of Jerome’s family required should be very maturely considered before it was consented to. DACRES.”

“The example of Lucien cannot but divert Jerome from imitating his conduct. Behold him separated from his brother ! But this afflictive separation, afflictive for all the friends of their family, would have much more unpleasant consequences for Jerome, who



has yet acquired no personal weight, no fortune, and whose property left behind at Paris, has been employed in part to pay the bills he has drawn on France. But, this motive is nothing in comparison of those more prevailing ones of the duties and the career of glory that call upon him.”—*Cotemporaneous remark.*

On the 20th of April 1804, the pen, whose potency has been compared to that of the sword, was busy in the department of the French Minister of Marine. On that day also he writes to Jerome Bonaparte in New York. Dating, “Paris, 30th Germinal, year 12,” he proceeds—“I have been just fulfilling, my dear Jerome, a rigorous duty imposed upon me by the First Consul—that of forbidding the Citizen Pichon to supply you with money, and prescribing to him to prohibit all the captains of French vessels from receiving on board *the young person to whom you have attached yourself; it being the intention of the First Consul that she shall on no pretext whatever, come into France; and should she happen to present herself, that she shall not be received, but be re-embarked for the United States without delay.*

“Such, my dear Jerome, are the orders which I have been obliged to literally transmit, and which have been given me and repeated after the interval of a month, with such a solemn severity as neither allowed me to withhold them altogether, nor to soften them in the slightest degree.

“After the discharge of this severe duty, I cannot, my dear Jerome, deny myself the pleasure of lengthening my letter in a way which the attachment I feel



single leaf to add to the heaps of laurels with which he invests his name, and our standards.

“O, Jerome! this idea alone should determine you to return with all expedition among us. The sound of arms is heard in every quarter, and of the preparations of the noblest enterprise! you are inquired for! and I, vexed that I should be at a loss what answer to give to those who ask where you are, declare that you are just at hand—give me not the lie, I beseech you! your brother Joseph, father of a family he adores, possessed with a fortune proportioned to his rank, invested with the highest civil honors of the state, known throughout Europe for his sagacity and his diplomatic labors, wishes to add to so much glory, that of sharing with the Consul the dangers of war, and has just got one of the regiments about to embark. Louis, known by his military services, a general of division, is desirous of adding to that glory, that of displaying talents for civil arrangements. He has just entered into the Council of State—the *Section of Legislation*.

“Lucien, it is true, has just quitted *France*, and has exiled himself to Rome in consequence of a marriage repugnant to the views of the First Consul; but Lucien is known by the services he has rendered by his genius, by his talents, by the dignity of a senator! He is possessed of a great and independent fortune; and notwithstanding, the connections disavowed by his brother which he has contracted, have been found incompatible with his abode in *France*.

“What has taken place in your family points out



to you sufficiently what the First Consul expects of you, and his inflexibility concerning what you shall do in opposition to his views. Sole architect of the glory of which he has attained the summit, he acknowledges no family but the French people; and in proportion as he exalts his brothers who press around him, so have I seen him show coldness and even aversion to those of his own blood who push not forward in the career which his genius marks out for them. Whatever is foreign to the accomplishment of his great designs, seems to him treason against his high destiny; and believe me, for I know your brother better than you know him yourself; if you should persist in keeping yourself at a distance from him he would get angry at first, and would conclude by entirely forgetting you; and Heaven knows what regrets your obscurity would lay up in store for you! Scarce can a more brilliant career be opened to a man of your age. Shut it not up yourself! The union which you have formed has deeply afflicted him! *While I, thought he, am doing everything for glory, for my own, for that of my name, for the happiness of the people that have put their fate into my hands, by whom may I hope to be seconded, if not by my brothers? and the youngest among them forms an inconsiderate connection on which he has not even asked my opinion. He has disposed of himself as a private individual. It is therefore as a private individual he wishes me to consider him. What claim does he earn to my benefactions? None! for instead of being useful to me, he takes the route diametrically*





*opposite to that which I wish him to follow.* In vain, availing myself of the freedom which the First Consul permits in domestic privacy, did I wish to make the voice of natural affection be heard. I became sensible, from his conversation, that he neither felt, nor was sensible to feel, any pliancy of that kind.

*“I will receive Jerome if, leaving in America the young person in question, he shall come hither to associate himself to my fortune. Should he bring her along with him, she shall not put a foot on the territory of France. If he comes alone I shall recall the error of a moment, and the fault of youth. Faithful services and the conduct which he owes to himself, and to his name, will regain him all my kindness.”*

“Such, my dear Jerome, are nearly the words of the First Consul! Bethink yourself, my friend, that he is only your brother; and that, as I have already told you, a brother feels not the yielding condescension of a father, who identifies himself in some measure with his son. Consider that you have as yet done nothing for him; and that in order to obtain the advantage attached to the honor of being connected with him, you have not a moment to lose for deserving them—for it is his character that merit and services rendered, or to be rendered, are the only things on which he sets a real and solid value. In truth, I am frightened at the regrets you are preparing for yourself, *and the young person with whom you have connected yourself*, should you go to the length of opposing the views of your brother. Your passions will pass away, and you will reproach your-



self with the injury you have done yourself. Perhaps you will accuse, even involuntarily, *the young person who will have been the occasion of it*. Listen to reason! and she will tell you, that, at any rate, you have committed the fault of failing in respect for your brother, and for a brother *fed for a length of time with the love and veneration of all France, and with the respect of Europe*. You will be sensible how happy it is for you, that you are able, by returning to France, to obtain the pardon of this fault; that it would be inconsistent *with your profound dignity to carry thither a woman who would be exposed to the mortification of not being received*. I know not whether you can hope to overcome your brother's unfavorable dispositions *towards her*; and, to deal frankly with you, I see no probability of such a thing—but if there be any means of obtaining it, it must be your presence. By your compliance with his views, by proofs of your devoted attachment to him, you can bring it about. You are so young, that if you unhappily let slip the opportunity of placing yourself about the Consul, you will have many years for regret to steal upon you. The obscurity to which you would thus condemn yourself would be long—and long and bitter the comparison between that lot you had chosen for yourself, and that which once awaited you. Without distinction, fame, or even fortune, how could you *bear the weight of the name with which you are honored?* To you, a stranger to the glory attached to it, it would become an insupportable burden. I repeat it for the last time, my dear Jerome, come



*hither*—come hither by the first French frigate which shall sail from the United States, and you will meet with such a reception as you desire; but I regret that you know not the Consul sufficiently, because you would then be persuaded that you cannot regain his good will but by this expedient; and this good will is essential to your happiness and to your glory.

“I conclude with the expression of the most sincere attachment, which I shall never cease to retain. Happy if I have been able to influence your determination in the way I could wish, more happy still, if my letter was unnecessary for that purpose. A thousand kind wishes. DACRES.”

These letters the imperial Bonaparte directed to be sent to M. Pichon and Jerome at New York, on the subject of the marriage, but they were intercepted by the commander of the British frigate *Leander* off New York. After taking copies the British commander transmitted the originals to their owners, and we hear no more of them for nearly a year; but we shall meet with them again in these pages. The condition of morals exemplified in the order from “head-quarters of the centre,” and in these letters, is a leaning backwards after glory, so that, under the circumstances, the great master-wheel of civilization in Europe, driving its little world of counter-wheels, could not have made many revolutions in its pit. If Providence, moving in time, carries a “fan” in hand to purge the floor of nations, that the wheat may go into the garner and the chaff into the fire, its European correlative surely cannot be discerned in Napoleon. Like “a



thorn in the flesh" he appeared to do little else than to gather corruption around him until the time of his removal. From the stand-points exposed to view by the documents in question, the "wind and tide" against which the noble bark of Mr. Patterson and his daughter was beating, will be clearly seen and comprehended. Weary of the silence in Europe, and unconscious of the fulminations of the consular decree delivered through the Minister of Marine, he takes his pen in hand to write to Jerome, and revealed to him the extent of his information, his hopes and his fears. The young couple had gone to New York, probably with a view of embarking immediately for France on some French vessel to go from that port; but found there the alarming intelligence from Daeres, and the following enactment of the French Senate:—

"By an act of the 11th Ventose, prohibition is made to all the civil officers of the Empire to receive on their registers the transcription of the act of the celebration of a pretended marriage that Jerome Bonaparte had contracted in a strange country, during the age of minority, without the consent of his mother, and without previous publication in the place of his nativity."

Without the least knowledge of this alarming state of things, the young lady's father, as just mentioned, wrote to Jerome. Dating, Baltimore, May 13th 1804, he writes—"Dear Sir—As you may not probably have received any late letters from your family in France, and of course must be anxious to know their sentiments respecting your marriage, I will now give you the best information I have been able to collect. In the middle of the month of January, your mother





and the First Consul were made acquainted with the circumstances that had taken place, until the match was broken off, and were highly pleased that it had not taken place. About this time the First Consul gave orders that you should be recalled and brought home; but I presume before his orders could be put into effect, by despatching a vessel from France, the news of your marriage must have arrived, and probably put a stop for the present to sending out the vessel intended. I have no information that can be depended on after the news of your marriage reached your family, and I fear they will be greatly displeased, and perhaps be difficult to reconcile them to the steps you have taken. This however will rest with yourself; and I trust you have, and will take, every means in your power to satisfy them on this head. My son Robert had arrived in Amsterdam from London, and was to set out for Paris on the 5th of March, with your letter to the First Consul, and several more from this country, and from Mr. Monroe, our Minister in London. I shall know the event after he reaches Paris, and will communicate to you the information I may receive from him immediately; but in the mean time, if you should receive any news relative to the business, I request you will write me, and as you may naturally suppose, our anxiety will be great until we know the final issue. Believe me, with sincere regard, your friend."

Receiving his first letters from Robert in Paris, the mails at that time travelling slowly, he writes again to Jerome in New York. Dating May 17th 1804, he



begins—"Dear Sir—I wrote you the 13th inst. under cover to my friends, Messrs. William Neilson & Co., of New York, and this will be forwarded in the same way. I have now the satisfaction to inform you, that on yesterday I received letters from my son Robert in Paris, dated the 16th and 17th of March, stating the particulars of a conversation and interview he had with your brother Lucien, which affords myself and family very great satisfaction, and I hope will be equally pleasing to you and Betsy; and for your better information, you have now the conversation that passed between your brother and my son, word for word, as taken down and noted at the time. By the note at bottom, you will perceive that your despatches were made up and forwarded on the 15th of March; but that the First Consul had instructed his *Chargé d’Affaires* in this country to express his *displeasure* to you on the measures that had taken place relative to your marriage. Your brother Lucien however observes, that this is to be considered as a matter of form; and that your family have written to you by the same conveyance in the most friendly and affectionate terms.

"Whatever measures you may think proper to adopt in consequence of the recommendation and plans laid down for you by your family, I will most cheerfully promote, and assist, as far as is in my power, so as to forward and establish your happiness in whatever depends on me. Write me frequently, and believe me, with the utmost sincerity, dear sir, your assured friend."



Under date Baltimore, 19th May 1804, Mr. Patterson again writes to Jerome, and drops a word of advise. "Dear sir," he begins, "I wrote you the 17th accompanying an exact copy of the communication made by your brother Lucien to my son Robert at Paris, respecting the views and intentions of your family for your settlement in this country. It is to me and my family a very pleasing circumstance; and considering the precarious and unsettled state of things in France at present, added to the risk of your being captured by the British were you to embark just now for home, I think it a wise and fortunate determination of your family. You can better judge of their views than I can in being so very anxious for your becoming a citizen of the United States. I should however be led to conclude that their intention is to secure an establishment in this country in case of any violent change or revolution in France; and surely it is equally your interest and duty to promote their happiness and security by following their instructions.

"The frigate you mention coming out with the Minister will certainly bring you letters that will explain everything, and corroborate what your brother told my son in Paris. Under these circumstances it will perhaps be best for you not to go on to Boston before you receive the letters you may daily expect. I am, dear sir, yours very sincerely."

In reply to the above letters from Mr. Patterson none from Jerome appear. If he did answer, the reader will before long find some reason to induce the



belief that the answers were *burned* soon after reading them. We hope, however, this was not the case.

Waiting a few days for Minister Livingston's reply to Mr. Patterson's letter of the 10th of February, we remark that this gentleman, late in the winter of 1804, was recalled by the President of the United States, and General John Armstrong appointed to succeed him. An item of news from London, under date of February 13th 1804, says: "The recall of Mr. Livingston, the American Minister at Paris, was occasioned by a personal infirmity of that gentleman. He is unfortunately very deaf."

It will be remembered that Jerome Bonaparte held a commission in the French Navy, having arrived at New York in command of a French frigate. From the "British Neptune" of February 13th 1804, we clip the following item: "Two Swiss officers in the French service are just arrived from France, having made their escape from thence. They have been examined before the privy council, and made a declaration that the invasion of this country will be attempted in the course of the present week, wind and weather permitting;" and in order to obtain his services in this naval attack on England, the Prefect of the Department of the Indre and Loire, issuing the following circular, would fain have reached Jerome in America. The document reads: "The French government attaches the most extreme importance to the immediate appearance of the proper officer at the different ports, of those seamen who have been called upon by their country to assist in the grand expedi-





tion now preparing, and which will shortly be afloat. Many have answered to their demand, and have proceeded to their several places of destination. But there are *still more* who have persisted in keeping themselves concealed, or who have otherwise found means to disobey this peremptory order notwithstanding their having been duly apprised of it by the proper magistrates."

The words *still more* are italicised in the original, and the order goes on to declare that all who do not obey it in a given time shall incur the penalties of desertion.

If, as the French Minister of Marine declared in his letter to Jerome of the 20th April, the order of Napoleon prohibiting Citizen Pichon from supplying him with money, and the French captains from receiving on board the "young person" to whom he had attached himself, had been given and repeated with solemn severity "after the interval of a month," then had it gone forth and was in the custody of Daeres, when, on the Saturday preceding the 28th of March, Mr. Robert Patterson "had the honor of dining with Mr. Joseph Bonaparte;" and it does not now appear so "singular" that "he did not throughout the evening speak a word of his brother's marriage."

Under date of June 20th 1804, Chancellor Livingston, still in Paris, and not yet displaced by the arrival of General Armstrong, his successor, answers Mr. Patterson's letter of the 10th of February. "Sir," says he, in the handwriting of his Secretary of Le-



gation, "I received your favor of the 10th of February, a few days before my departure for England. As I had written fully on the subject of your daughter's marriage both to the Secretary of State and to General Smith, who I knew would make the communication to you, I postponed writing in the hope of being able to communicate something satisfactory to you. You learned from those letters the plan that had been proposed for making an establishment for Mr. Bonaparte in America. You have also learned from my late letters that the new order of things here would probably make some changes in the determination of the First Consul on this subject. To reduce my suspicions on this head to certainty, I wrote to Prince Joseph, who was at Boulogne. On my return from England, I found the letter of which the enclosed is a copy, which I think clearly evinces that the plan is changed. But I have great hopes it will not be disadvantageous to your son-in-law, or daughter.

"If, as I doubt not, he perseveres in his attachment for her, and in those resolutions which his sentiments of honor will dictate, I think I see some appearance of relaxation here; and I hope for a full reconciliation which will place him upon the ground on which he ought to stand with the Emperor. I cannot be more particular at present, but you may be assured that the little I can give in this business, you may freely and fully command. I have furnished, as you request, extracts from General Smith's letters to Prince Joseph, and communicated the sentiments contained in the President's and Mr. Madison's letters. Though I can tell you nothing certain, for you know



a matter of this kind cannot be treated diplomatically, and the absence of Madame Bonaparte, the mother, and Lucien, and Prince Joseph, narrows the avenues to information, yet I have great hopes, that ere long this business will be accommodated to the satisfaction of all the parties. I am, sir, with esteem, your most obedient humble servant."

The copy of Prince Joseph's letter enclosed by Mr. Livingston is dated, "27th Floreal (April) year 12," and reads as follows:—

"Monsieur: J'ai reçu les lettres que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire. Je suis fâché de la peine que vous vous êtes donnée. Avant de partir pour l'armée j'ai écrit à Monsieur Jerome quelles étaient les intentions du Consul, et j'ai remis la lettre à un citizen des Etats Unis, ami de Mr. Patterson fils.

"Daignez, Monsieur, agréer mes remerciements et l'hommage de ma haute considération."

The following is a rough translation perhaps made in America by an ordinary scholar; but which we prefer to give without correction:—

"Sir: I received the letters which you did me the honor to write to me. I am sorry for the trouble it gave you. Before starting for the army, I wrote Mr. Jerome what have been the intentions of the Consul, and remitted the letter to a citizen of the United States, a friend of Mr. Patterson's son. Please accept my thanks and the tribute of my high consideration."

On this letter the reader already has the remark of Mr. Livingston, to the effect that the consular plans with respect to the establishment of Jerome in America had been changed.



## CHAPTER IV.

The young couple in Baltimore—Sleighs and snow-balls—Bad boys—Gossip in New York—French frigates—Bonaparte and lady about to sail for France—His baggage on board—Going in The Dido—British frigates on the watch—The couple do not embark—Robert Patterson in Amsterdam—News from Paris—Letter from a strange writer—He hails from Lille—Pope of Rome—Queen of Etruria—The young couple visit the “Hub”—A secret gets out—More gossip—General Armstrong sails—Madame Bonaparte does not—Her letter of explanation—“Little Baltimore beauty”—An astonishing paragraph in the French papers—Napoleon’s opinion of his brother Joseph—Joseph’s remarkable letter to Jerome.

LEAVING transatlantic affairs for a season to the direction and control of circumstances, we return to the United States to bring up the rear. On the 25th of January 1804, the young couple, as appears from the following paragraph, were still in Baltimore :—

“Our city, especially Market street, exhibited a lively scene yesterday and to-day, from the incessant passing and repassing of *sleighs and four!!!! sleighs and two!!* and *sleighs and one!* The younger part of our city patriots were, as customary on such occasions, troublesome and dangerous with their snow-balls. Madame Bonaparte, we understand, was thrown at and struck by a ball; for the perpetrator of which, it is said, her husband offered a reward of *five hundred dollars*. The evil certainly requires a remedy, and several lads, we learn, have been taken up by the constables.”





It has already been stated that on the 4th of February Jerome and his lady were on their way to Washington City to visit the French Minister. On the 29th of May it was said in New York, "We have heard it alleged that it is to be *reported* that Jerome Bonaparte will return to France by one of the frigates now here, whilst *in fact* he is to sail in a merchant vessel. One of the French frigates from Guadaloupe came up yesterday from Staten Island and anchored near the city in the North River, for the purpose of taking in provisions. The other frigate is expected up this day. It is said, and we believe with truth, that Jerome Bonaparte and lady will go to France in one of these ships; for we were recently informed by an official character that Jerome had received a letter from his brother, stating that he should send a frigate for him. The commander of one of these frigates has gone to the southward on business with young Bonaparte, probably to hasten his return, that they may sail immediately, as a detention in this port might bring some British ships of war within the lights of Sandy Hook."

On the 14th of June, it was published in New York that "M. Jerome Bonaparte, his lady and Mr. Patterson, of Baltimore, her father, arrived in this city on Tuesday. Report says that the young couple are about to depart for France, but the correctness of the rumor is considered questionable. They attended the theatre last evening, accompanied by the captains of the Cybele and Didon frigates, and several gentlemen. That these vessels may leave the Hook with-



out apprehension, a pilot-boat was yesterday chartered to cruise in the offing, in order to discover whether there are any British ships of war in the way."

On the 16th, it was announced that "two pilot-boats, sent out with each a French officer on board, to ascertain whether the British vessels of war are off the harbor, returned yesterday afternoon with information that the coast is clear. M. Jerome Bonaparte went down to the French frigates at the watering-place yesterday morning. It is understood that he is to take his departure in the commodore's ship, the *Didon*, of 44 guns, reputed the best appointed and fastest sailing frigate in the French or English Navy. It was in this vessel, according to report, Napoleon escaped from Egypt.

"Bonaparte's baggage was put on board the *Didon* yesterday; and if so, it is possible the French frigates will sail this morning.

"We have received information that the news of the arrival of the French frigates in this harbor had reached Halifax, which caused a bustle among the inhabitants of that place. The *Cambrian* frigate of 44 guns, which had her topmasts struck when the news arrived, was completely fitted for sea in a few hours, and intended to sail immediately with the *Leander* for New York."

On the 19th of June it was paragraphed that "Jerome Bonaparte and lady were rowed up yesterday from on board the *Didon*, and were safely landed opposite their lodgings in Washington street at 12 o'clock. The Frenchmen say they would not mind the Cam-



brian frigate, and Driver sloop of war, but the heavier ships which they say are in the offing, they wish to avoid."

On the 20th it was said "the reports, to which the arrival of the British vessels of war have given rise, are numerous and contradictory. At one time it is said the Frenchmen are determined to sail at all hazards—at another that they had no such intentions even prior to the arrival of the Boston frigate. It is now reported that Jerome has magnanimously resolved to take his passage in the Didon, and share with his countrymen the dangers of a rencounter with the enemy, now, that he has prudently laid aside the idea, until the concurrence of more favorable circumstances. Appearances last evening seemed to justify the conjecture that the French frigates will not sail soon. Intimidated probably by the proximity of the enemy, and alarmed still more perhaps by the bold and imperious conduct of the Cambrian frigate toward the ship Pitt, they yesterday came up from the watering place, and anchored about three miles below the city, where it is highly presumable they will remain *as long as the enemy pleases*. By an order from the Mayor in consequence of an application from the French commanders, the pilots on board the British vessels were ordered not to pilot them out for twenty-four hours after the Frenchmen should sail, provided they did so the first fair wind. Immediately upon the receipt of the orders, the Cambrian frigate and Driver sloop of war weighed anchor; and, without the assistance of pilots, dropped down to the bay, where they now lie at anchor with the Boston."



On the 21st report had it for the last twenty-four hours, that "M. Jerome and lady had taken their departure in a sloop to overtake the *Silenus*, which sailed a few days ago for Amsterdam—a previous arrangement having been made. We are now informed that they are still in the city, and it is expected they have abandoned their contemplated departure for the present. The number of the British frigates, &c., on the coast, and the sharp lookout that will be kept for them in different parts of their voyage by vessels of superior force, would render their safe arrival in France extremely improbable."

On the 28th of June the following "communication" appeared in the New York papers: "It has been said in some of the papers that Bonaparte has taken a summer residence near this city. This may be true. It is certain, however, that General Ray, the French Commissary, has taken the cabin of the brig *Rolla*, which vessel is about sailing from this port for Bordeaux; and it is believed that Bonaparte and his lady are going home in this vessel. It is well enough to give out that he is going to spend the summer here in order to avoid a suspicion of his embarking on board a merchant ship."

On the 9th of July it was again paragraphed in the New York papers that "Jerome Bonaparte, it is understood, has abandoned all intentions of immediately returning to France, and contemplates commencing in a few days a pretty extensive tour; in the course of which, after passing through the Eastern States, he will visit the Springs of Lebanon and





Balltown, and pursue the customary route to view the grand Falls of Niagara. His lady will be of the party."

Leaving the young couple on their Northern tour, we will conduct the reader across the Atlantic to Amsterdam, where, it will be remembered, we last located Mr. Robert Patterson. This gentleman gives us his latest accounts from Paris, which we will allow him to explain in his own words. Dating "Amsterdam, July 21st 1804," he says: "The following is an extract from a letter from Mr. M——, dated Paris, July the 15th. I am confident that we may safely put every reliance on what he says, as, from the opportunities he has had, no person can be better informed of their sentiments than himself. It is the gentleman who came out with John." The extract from Mr. M.'s letter is: "I have not, my friend, written you for a long time, because I wished to give you some good news relative to the affair, which has taken a good turn. There are in America two frigates charged to bring back Mr. Bonaparte. If he returns in them with his wife, it is *an affair finished*. She will be well received. I have written to him by Captain B——y's son urging him to return, and be assured I am too much attached to him and his wife to recommend their taking a wrong step."

Having gathered all the news accessible in Amsterdam, we leave Mr. Patterson there engaged in business of a strictly commercial character, and return again to France. At "No. 1, Rue Royal, Lille," we encounter a strange correspondent, who, under dato



of "August 7th 1804, addresses a letter to "Madame Jerome Bonaparte." He unexpectedly and strangely "rings in;" but having a desire to hear from all on this subject, we point him to a seat within our circle of correspondents. "Madame," says he, "I can make no better apology for thus abruptly introducing myself to your acquaintance than the plea of kindred, which I deem a powerful one, and which I shall be highly flattered in finding admitted as such by you. At all events, madame, my rank, fortune, and future prospects in life are such as to raise me above all suspicion of interested motives; and if they were not, I am persuaded from the accounts I have had of you, that you have too much liberality of sentiment to entertain any such suspicion in the most distant degree.

"It is natural for persons who value themselves on the casualty of birth, and annex preferences to consanguinity, to wish to perpetuate kindred connections; and to that end to seek out, and cultivate acquaintance with, those whom their best instincts teach them to regard. Such I am sure is my motive in this address; and it will give me particular happiness if this letter should be instrumental in reviving the friendship which formerly subsisted between your father and mine, in the persons of their descendents. Our fathers, madame, were *first cousins*, and I have often heard my good father mention yours, who in early life went with Messrs. Cunningham and Stuart to America, in terms of the warmest friendship.

"The incidents and turns of life have, I admit,



made one very essential difference in our relative stations. You have had the good fortune to draw a valuable prize in the lottery of life, a prize which most of your sex covet, but of which few could be found so deserving as yourself.

“By marriage you are not only closely allied to the greatest man of the age, but *united with one of the best*, and have so far attained a happy state of exaltation! Yet, give me leave *to observe* to you, madame, that, though your merits have thus been happily rewarded, you are descended in a near degree from a family as noble, and what is of still greater moment, as truly respectable as any in the kingdom of Ireland; and I will venture to assert, that they have not, in any one instance, deviated from those principles of honor; and while our conduct is regulated by the same honorable motives, no change of situation or circumstances should make us forget the duties we owe to them, and to ourselves.

“It is on this principle, madame, and from a persuasion that our sentiments on this subject must coincide, that I venture to hope you will not only permit me thus to introduce myself to you by letter, but further, if you should come to France, you will give Mrs. Paterson and myself the honor and happiness of being personally known to you.

“I came with my wife to France about eighteen months ago, for the benefit of her health, which has been for some time in a very precarious state. Unfortunately and most unexpectedly, the renewal of hostilities between the two countries has frustrated my



plan, and prevented me from giving Mrs. Paterson that frequent change of air and climate which her physicians had so strongly recommended. Under this disappointment we remained stationary at Valenciennes—a depot for the strangers—for twelve months; at the expiration of which time, it occurred to me to appeal to the government so far as to solicit a change of residence, which was become more requisite than ever for Mrs. Paterson. The boon I solicited was kindly attended to by his Excellency the Minister at War; and through the representation of a friend whose goodness I can never forget, granted a concession which I consider as a mark of special favor, and for which therefore I feel myself truly grateful.

“We are now fixed at Lille, where, though considered as an hostage, I am treated with all possible lenity, and experience as much indulgence as, under existing circumstances, I can reasonably expect. It will add much to the comfort I at present enjoy to find the advances I have thus made requited as favorably as I could wish them to be. Be assured that no one could take a more warm and friendly interest in your welfare than myself, and *few persons* feel more partiality for kindred than I do.

“Mrs. Paterson joins me in every good wish for your health and happiness, and permit me to subscribe myself, madame, your sincere friend and most obedient servant,      GEORGE MATTHEW PATERSON.”

This letter is endorsed, “George W. Paterson to Betsy;” but an answer to it has not been found in our files. Nothing more at Lille. We visit Paris and find





nothing bearing on our subject, except two items from Rome and Etruria. The first from Rome declares that "that the Estates of the Church, under the guardianship of the French army, is suffered to enjoy peace, and *permitted* to pay for it. The influence of the sovereign pontiff, which a few years since seemed almost annihilated, has lately been re-established, and the holy father finds in Bonaparte, though a politic, apparently a very dutiful son. Pius VII. is of a placid disposition; and though his power as a temporal prince has been lessened, he appeared contented with the enjoyment of his spiritual dominion. *His nephew has recently been married to a sister of the First Consul.*"

The second item, as stated, is from Etruria, and is to the effect that "this republican kingdom does not furnish much political matter worthy of record. It is but an appendage of the French Republic; and its infant sovereign is under the guardianship and tutelage of the French General Clark."

Leaving France again, and completing the circle to Boston, where we land on the 20th of August, we learn that Jerome and his lady had been on a visit to that city: and that she had said her husband was in receipt of the intercepted letter of M. Dacres, the French Minister of Marine.

On the 20th of August, it was announced in New York that "Jerome Bonaparte, having returned to this city from the Eastern States, partook of an elegant entertainment on board the French frigate Didon on Friday last. We are informed that the French offi-



cers addressed him by the title of 'His Imperial Highness,' and that a late number of the *Moniteur* invites this style of address."

On the 5th of September, the young couple were still in New York, accommodating themselves to circumstances, and biding their time of embarkation for France; but an unfortunate occurrence takes place which seems to put an end to all hopes for the present. Reminding the reader that General Armstrong had been appointed to succeed Chancellor Livingston as Minister, he was about to sail, and we will allow Madame Jerome Bonaparte to tell here her own story. Addressing a letter to her father, "William Patterson, Esquire, South street, Baltimore, Maryland," under date "New York, 5th September 1804," she says:—

"Dear Sir—We have made a journey here for nothing, as General Armstrong, the Ambassador, after writing to Mr. Bonaparte that he would be delighted at taking me to France with him, changed his mind, and went off without me. To-morrow we are to leave this place for Philadelphia, and from thence we go to Springfield immediately; so that, as I shall see you soon, it is unnecessary to say any more.

"I thought the opportunity of going with an Ambassador too good to be missed, and Mr. Bonaparte was to have gone in the frigates a few days after me."

The only signature which this communication contains is the letter *E.*, underscored. It is endorsed in the handwriting of her father with the words and



figures—"Betsy, N. Y., September 1804," and bears the red post-mark on the envelope, "New York, Sept. 5."

The young couple, it appears, were generally the custodians of their own secrets, thus giving rise to a multitude of rumors, and puzzling the *quidnuncs*. It turns out that the parties did leave New York, as stated in Madame's letter to her father, just quoted; and on missing them from their usual places of resort, it was published in that city, on the 8th of the month, that—

"It is rumored that M. Jerome Bonaparte and *his little Baltimore beauty* have taken *French leave*, and tacitly slipped off in the vessel which carries General Armstrong, our lately-appointed Minister, to Nantz."

This paragraph was followed by another under date of the 10th, to the effect that "a report has been prevalent for a few days that Jerome Bonaparte and his lady have embarked for Havre on board the ship Thomas. We are however assured the rumor with respect to Jerome is certainly incorrect. Some obscurity attends that part of it which relates to his youthful bride. It is stated on good authority that she was to have taken her departure in that vessel under the protection of our Ambassador; and that she was to have arrived here for that purpose on Monday evening, the vessel waiting till Tuesday to receive her. On Tuesday the ship sailed, and on the same day the young couple came in a stage-coach to Elizabethtown. At Elizabethtown Point they were received by a barge belonging to one of the French



frigates. Whether the lady was put on board the vessel as she left the harbor, or whether the ship had sailed a few hours previous to her arrival, remains in doubt. The latter is said to have been the case, and the young couple returned to Philadelphia by the stage, after a short delay."

Leaving the young couple *en route* for Baltimore, by way of Philadelphia and Wilmington, we again sail for France, and arrive in Paris on the 12th of October. Previously to our arrival, however, French despatches from New York had evidently reached the city, and we find that a very scurrilous article relating to Jerome and his wife has passed the censors of the French press, and appears in all the papers of Paris, except the *Moniteur*. It is in the papers by authority of the government, for it could get in by no other means, and we copy a literal translation of it:—

"One of our journals, in saying that the American gazettes speak often of the wife of Mr. Jerome Bonaparte, observes that it is possible Mr. Bonaparte, a young man who is only *twenty* years of age, may have a mistress, but it is not possible he can have a wife, since the laws of France are such that a young man, a minor of twenty, or even twenty-five years, cannot marry without the consent of his parents, and without having fulfilled in France the formalities prescribed. But Mr. Bonaparte was born in December 1784, and it is already more than a year since the American papers have announced him as married."

Such are the tones that rung out on the air of the French metropolis after a silence of several months,





at the instance of him who had "hitherto uniformly endeavored to impress upon the world the highest idea of his moral character." Coming as it did into the French papers, made the above document official, carrying with it the force of any other papers uttered by the government of the country—and for this reason, it moved back, over the space of unreckoned degrees, the gnomon that marks the advance of civilization on the dial of nations.

That the reader may be possessed of material from which he can draw his own inferences from matters and facts about to be introduced, we think it proper to furnish him with what the First Consul appeared to think of his brother Joseph. Designating him for the command of a division of the grand army about to invade England, Napoleon says: "The Senator Joseph Bonaparte, grand officer of the legion of honor, has testified to me the desire of partaking in the dangers of the army encamped on the coasts of Boulogne, that he may share in the glory. I have thought it for the good of the state, and that the Senate would perceive at pleasure, that after having rendered important services to the republic, as well by the solidity of his councils in circumstances the most serious, as by the knowledge, ability and wisdom he has displayed in the successive negotiations of the treaty of Morfontaine, which terminated our differences with the United States of America; in that of Luneville, which gave peace to the continent; and more recently in that of Amiens, which had restored peace between France and England, the Senator Joseph Bonaparte should be placed in a situation to



contribute to the vengeance which the French people promise themselves for the violation of the latter treaty; and that he should have the opportunity given him of acquiring a still stronger title to the esteem of the nation.

“Having already served under my eyes in the first campaigns of the war, and given proofs of his courage and skill in the art of war in the rank of chief of battalion, I have nominated him colonel commandant of the fourth regiment of the line, one of the most distinguished corps of the army, and which is reckoned among those who, always placed in situations of the greatest peril, have never lost their colors, and have very frequently decided the victory. I desire therefore that the Senate agree to the request that will be made to them by the Senator Joseph Bonaparte for leave of absence from the Senate during the time which the occupations of the war may detain him with the army.”

This paper exposes the bone of contention between France and England at that time, and the intimacy of the two brothers. When he wrote his short letter to Mr. Livingston in June, Joseph was in charge of his new command at Boulogne, but in October we find him again in Paris. On the 19th of that month, he writes the following remarkable letter to Jerome, from which the reader is left to draw his own conclusions.

“My dear friend,” writes the Senator to his young brother, “I have received your letter from Albany that Mr. Esmenard delivered to me. I have told him what I wrote to you several times since your mar-



riage, and what I wish most ardently to be effected—I mean, my dear Jerome, your arrival in France. I cannot give you my advice respecting the way of undertaking that voyage. I am sensible that it would be an excellent one if, taking your passage on board a man-of-war, you might have a glorious engagement which could enable you to soften the dissatisfaction of those who love you, and are displeased only at the oblivion in which your distance and your stay in a country so remote seem to have left them.

“M. Oreel, who will deliver this to you, shall relate to you all that I told him on that subject. Be persuaded, my dear friend, of the desire that I entertain of proving to you the strong feelings which I devoted to you. I do not know your resources in the country where you are. Do not forget that every thing I have is at your disposition, and that I shall share with you everything I could have, with great pleasure. It is since your affections have led you far from your family, from your friends, that I feel, by myself, that you cannot renounce them.

“Tell Mrs. Jerome from me, that as soon as she will be arrived, and acknowledged by the chief of the family, she will not find a more affectionate brother than me. I have every reason to believe, after what I have heard of her, that her qualities and character will promote your happiness, and inspire us with esteem and friendship that I will be very much pleased to express to her. Do not accustom them to your absence particularly for such a length of time.”

This translation was made in America soon after the arrival of this letter.



## CHAPTER V.

Robert Patterson--Paul Bentalou--Lucien Bonaparte--The scandalous paragraph--Maupertuis--Miss Caton--Duke of Wellington--General Armstrong on marriage--More letters from Robert Patterson--Letters of Dacres in Halifax--*Sensation* in New York--Young couple shipwrecked in the Delaware--Madame Bonaparte first in the life-boat--Narrow escape from drowning--Baltimore and Philadelphia *out-sensation* New York--Philadelphia comes out best--More letters from Mr. Patterson--Young couple encounter 44 guns--Madame Bonaparte's courage--The gentleman who came out with John--A great wheel--Excursion into the wilds--Mons. P. de Maupertuis at the wheel--His wonderful letters--His leagues of cable--Jerome's disgrace--Coronation of Napoleon and Josephine--The world is dazzled.

WE have received no advices from Mr. Robert Patterson since the 21st of July, save three letters of a commercial character alone, and nothing from Mr. Bentalou in Paris since his letter of the 16th of March, detailing the substance of certain conversations with Lucien Bonaparte; nor have the intercepted letters of M. Dacres been made public either in England or the United States. The scandalous paragraph relating to the marriage, which appeared in the French papers of the 12th of October, came to the knowledge of Mr. Patterson in Amsterdam on the 2d of November, and with his usual sagacity and sound judgment he pens the following comments upon the subject:—

“This absurd and scurrilous article appeared in all





the Paris papers but the *Moniteur*. In France censors are appointed who examine every paper previous to giving it to the world, so that it is not possible to suppose a paragraph of this kind would have passed them if it had not been authorized by the government. The Consul's determination is *now but too plain*. It is fortunate Jerome is still in America. He ought to remain there for the present until his friends have recognised his marriage. If his family are determined on proceeding to extremities, they will possibly, to oblige him to return, curtail his supplies, perhaps withhold them altogether. I can scarcely, however, think such a plan would be persevered in.

"Our dependence is now entirely on Jerome's honor. With firmness on his part, the affair may yet terminate favorably. There is much to be apprehended—when the Emperor has made up his mind on any subject, he seldom gives way or recedes from his opinions."

Dating November 4th on the same sheet, Mr. Patterson continued: "M—— may have been sincere in advising Jerome to return, but it is at least injudicious. They could only expect the worst after such a declaration as was made in the article in question. The source from which it came cannot be doubted, neither is it by any one in Paris. The only security for their happiness is by their remaining in the United States. Jerome should be cautious in crediting the advice from parties in Paris who recommend his returning. You can judge, or at least form as



probable a conjecture as any person there of what would be the consequence of such a step."

Dating November 7th, Mr. Patterson postscripts his letter again, and proceeds: "I have a letter from Mr. Bentalou of the 3d inst. He tells me he thinks the paragraph of the 12th of October was inserted by way of retaliation to the many abusive ones which appeared in our prints; and he does not, by any means, think the prospect so gloomy as appearances would seem to indicate. I understand it was the intention of my sister to have come out on the same ship with General Armstrong, which some misunderstanding prevented. Presuming she will persevere in her intention, I shall go on in a week or two to Paris to meet her. Mr. Monroe and his family are in Paris. He will do everything in his power, I am persuaded, to procure her a cordial reception. I have been expecting every minute, for the last week, to be called upon for my letters for the L. P., which is the reason of your having so many dates on this sheet."

Waiting for another letter from Mr. Robert Patterson, we will state, for the information of the young reader, that he married the eldest daughter of Richard Caton, Esq., a distinguished English gentleman, who in early times settled in Maryland and married a daughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, one of the Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Patterson's accomplished and beautiful wife, when travelling in Europe with her husband, formed



a great intimacy with the Duke of Wellington. Elevated by the projectile force of a wild ambition, in a direction so contrary to that of the universal gravitation of mankind, Napoleon fell at last by the fortunes of the Duke at Waterloo, and landed, to eat "the bread of affliction," on the island of St. Helena.

Continuing our digression a little longer we will, for the reason mentioned, refer again to General Armstrong, who did not take Madame Bonaparte with him to France. At a time perhaps when the General did not even dream of becoming a Minister to France himself, he penned the following facetious lines, for which we are indebted to the "Republic Court:": "We have a French Minister now with us," referring to the Count de Moustier, "and if France had wished to destroy the little remembrance that is left of her and her exertions in our behalf, she would have sent just such a Minister—distant, haughty, penurious, and entirely governed by the caprices of a little singular, whimsical, hysterical old woman, whose delight is in playing with a negro child and caressing a monkey."

Some time during the revolutionary war he wrote the following: "I am not yet married nor likely to be so. The truth is, I am too poor to marry a woman without some fortune, and too proud to marry any woman possessed of one. In this dilemma, until my circumstances change, or other objects present themselves, I must ever keep along in the solitary road I am in." Circumstances seem to have changed at an early day, for in 1789, the first year of the



presidency of Washington under the new Constitution, General Armstrong married the sister of Chancellor Livingston, his predecessor at the Court of France.

Begging the young reader to bear with us a little longer, whilst, for his information and convenience, we refer to the French Calendar during the Republic, we will state that the first month of the republican year commenced on the 22d of September 1792, of the Christian era. The twelve months of the republican year, commencing as above, were respectively named Vendémiaire, Brumaire, Frimaire, Nivose, Pluviose, Ventose, Germinal, Floreal, Prairial, Messidor, Thermidor, and Fructidor—signifying, in their regular order, the months of Vintage and Wine, Fog and Winter, White Frost, Snow, Rain, Wind, Germs or Sprouts, Flowers, Meadows, Harvest and Gift, Warmth and Heat, Fruit and Gift. From this the reader will have a better understanding of the French dates which are so frequently made in the future pages of this book.

It will be remembered that Mr. Robert Patterson, in his letter from Amsterdam under date of November 2d, in speaking of his sister, said, "I shall go on in a week or two to Paris to meet her."

On the 4th of December 1804, after a long lull of the winds which scattered wild rumors along his pathway, he writes from Paris to his father in Baltimore. "Dear Sir," says he, "I have been here about a week. I had flattered myself that I should have been able to have discovered what were their intentions respecting the affair in which we take so much





interest; and though I have tried to obtain that information through every channel that was accessible to me, *I have been disappointed.*

"I believe the fact is, if he has even any settled design, no person knows it. Everything that can be said on this subject is vain conjecture. You can form just as plausible an opinion of what will be the ultimatum as any person here. I am told, and I have it from such authority as makes it unquestionable, that the other members of the family are very desirous of reconciling the principal. It is not unlikely but they may eventually succeed. At present I suspect he shows so great a disinclination to hear of the subject, that none of them ventures to revive it. Our best plan is to let the thing remain as quiet as possible, and to avoid particularly every measure which can have the least tendency to irritate. He has already been much incensed at a letter written him by Jerome. He says it has given him more displeasure than even the marriage itself. All those on whose judgment you have the most confidence, are decidedly of opinion Jerome ought to remain in the United States if not directly contrary to his instructions; but in the event of his coming out, that he should bring his wife with him, let the consequence be what it may."

In November 1804, it vaguely appears that Mr. Patterson, when at Antwerp on his way to Paris, learns for the first time of the publication in the "Halifax Morning Chronicle" of the letters written



by Dacres to Jerome and Pichon, and pronounces them *a forgery*.

He says, however, on reaching France, that "the letters which were intercepted and published in England, said to have been written by the Minister of Marine to Jerome and to Pichon, are genuine. He acknowledges he wrote them. I do not, however, think the measures he mentions to have taken to prevent her landing in France will be enforced."

This paragraph comes in a business letter from Holland of the 25th November, without date, and down to this time it does not appear that Mr. Patterson, the young lady's father, had any knowledge of the existence of the intercepted letters, or their publication in Halifax. But further light on this obscure part of our subject will shortly appear.

With respect to these letters, however, a Halifax paper of the 8th of September has the following: "We have been favored with the perusal of two French official letters, dated Paris, 30th Germinal. One of them is signed 'Dacres,' and addressed to Jerome Bonaparte, now in America. The writer informs Jerome that by order of the First Consul his allowances are stopped, and intimates Napoleon's highest displeasure at his having remained so long in America, and having married without his consent. Dacres says that the young woman with whom Jerome has connected himself will not be permitted to enter the French territories; and should she even arrive at any port in France, she will be instantly reshipped for the American States. He is reminded



that the First Consul is not operated upon by the blind affection of a parent; that he will only acknowledge those relations who press around him and assist in executing his vast plans. The brothers Joseph, Louis, and Lucien are spoken of in high terms of commendation; but the latter, though eminently useful, and possessed of an independent fortune, yet, having contracted a marriage contrary to the will of the First Consul, has been banished to Rome. But you, says the writer, are pointed out as a man without spirit, yielding to the tender passions, not having added a single leaf to the laurels which crown him, his name, and our colors. He is repeatedly pressed to return to France in the first frigate that may offer, but as often cautioned against bringing the young woman with him. It would be degrading, says Dacres, your personal dignity to introduce into this country, a woman who ought to be in humiliation, and who will not be received here. The other letter is from Citizen *Denes* directed to Citizen Pichon, and is to the same effect. The whole of both letters, which are very lengthy, is such as to impress the reader with an idea of the supreme insolence and contempt with which the usurper looks down on those engaged in the humble walks of life. They were intercepted on board a vessel bound from Bordeaux to New York, and we have not the smallest doubt of their authenticity."

If Mr. Patterson saw this paragraph, it is likely he looked upon the letters to which it referred as forgeries, depending upon his son Robert in Europe



for facts to guide his judgment; and we do not discover that Jerome made him acquainted with the originals prior to his return from his tour in the Eastern States.

We last left the young couple on their way from Philadelphia to Baltimore. On the 16th of August it was announced that, on the Friday preceding, Jerome Bonaparte, his lady and suite, arrived at Providence, Rhode Island, on their way to Baltimore, where it is said he proposes to reside. This announcement, with others already referred to, was made to pave the way for their secret departure for Europe, in order to throw off their guard the British vessels on the coast which intended to capture Jerome.

On the 21st it was published in New York again that Jerome Bonaparte, some time since, received a letter from his brother the Emperor of France, in which he says, "If you return, come alone—if you tarry, expect no promotion." We do not vouch for this, says the publisher, but we receive it as a fact; and in consequence M. Bonaparte has resolved to reside in the United States with his lady.

On the 22d of August the city of New York made itself responsible for another paragraph of the sensation persuasion, which went the rounds in this form:—

"Interesting and pleasing intelligence is received from a gentleman in France respecting Jerome Bonaparte and his lovely bride. It is confidently reported in the first circles of Paris, that the Emperor has forgiven his brother, and taken the young couple into favor. The circumstance is said to have been effected, or aided, by a portrait of the lady which had been transmitted to the mother by Bonaparte; and being much





celebrated for her beauty, it was sent for by the Empress Josephine."

On the arrival of the young couple in Baltimore about mid-autumn, that city and Philadelphia fell to work and *out-sensationed* New York. Their production was "founded upon fact, and was therefore the more startling." Baltimore, claiming the first *put*, gravely begins:—"M. Jerome Bonaparte and his fair spouse have at length taken their departure for France. The mode they adopted to lull curiosity, and obtain sufficient start before the news could reach any English vessel on the coast, reflects some ingenuity on the inventor; and if Jerome be the man, it gives him a small title to the station of Imperial High Admiral of the French Navy. It appears that since his return from the eastward, he has fitted up in very handsome style the elegant seat of Mrs. Dulany, about two miles from the city, which, it was given out, he meant to make his permanent residence, at least during the war between Great Britain and France. His absence from the streets or parties in the city for two or three days at a time, of course no longer excited suspicion. Matters being thus arranged, he attended the theatre on Thursday night last with his lady, and when the play was over they repaired on board a packet at one of the wharves, which had been engaged for the purpose, and proceeded down to North Point, where, with one or two of her relations, who accompany them to France, they were put on board the fast sailing schooner Cordelia, Captain Towers, which had been fitted up and ballasted for the purpose. On Sunday



it began to be whispered about that *Jerome was off*; but there seemed so much of a *quiz* in the tale, that no one out of the secret believed it till it could be no longer doubted."

Baltimore, feeling "certain and sure," she had all things in a nut-shell this time, and that the young couple were verily on a bridal tour in the dominions of old Neptune, continues her narrative in great confidence:—

"The name of Jerome Bonaparte has been so much bandied about in the newspapers, and so many reports spread of his attempts to quit the country, that he has at last fairly got the advantage of busy rumor, and left for her votaries nothing but a vacant gaze—unless perhaps they should yet fit him on the horns of John Bull, or in the maw of a whale, a situation he and his lady had a '*narrow escape*' from, according to the annexed article from the Philadelphia True American, received by this morning's mail:

"By a gentleman from Dover, Delaware, we learn that the snow Philadelphia, Captain Kennedy, of and from this port, bound to Cadiz, was driven on shore in the gale last Friday, at Pilot-Town, the passengers and crew saved, and it is said the vessel will be got off without injury. Jerome Bonaparte and lady were passengers on board, *incog.*, and narrowly escaped drowning. It is said the whole of the passengers were nearly naked, and that Madame Bonaparte was the first person that jumped into the boat.'

"We cannot," continues Baltimore, "help viewing the above article as an excellent thing, by way of



underplot to the farce of the *Flight*; and so far as it could tend to counteract any information which might have been sent off to New York from this place, it was no bungling piece of stratagem. The owners and insurers of the Philadelphia need, therefore, be under no great apprehensions about the vessel, for we strongly suspect that the tale concerning her and her passengers was fabricated here, although imposed upon the editor of the *True American* as coming from 'a gentleman from Dover.'"

In a few days, the Baltimore writer comes down, and credits Philadelphia with the truthful part of the story. "The report," says he, "circulated here for a few days past respecting the departure of Prince Jerome Bonaparte and his lady, and which we contributed to extend, turns out *not* to be correct, as the following article confirms their shipwreck on board the Philadelphia :

"We are authorized to say that the account lately given of Prince Jerome Bonaparte and his lady being shipwrecked in the snow Philadelphia in the Bay of Delaware, on their passage to Cadiz, *is correct*. They embarked at Port Penn and were landed, after being in imminent danger, at Pilot-Town. They arrived this day, the 31st October, in Philadelphia, accompanied by Miss Spear and M. Pichon."

A *snow* is a vessel with two masts resembling the main and foremasts of a ship, and a third small mast just abaft the mainmast, carrying a trysail. In this little affair of the shipwreck, Philadelphia was sailing under true colors, and the flag of Baltimore fell to half-mast.



Leaving the young couple in Baltimore, to put in motion some other forces to take them "out of the country," we return to France. Mr. Robert Patterson is still in Paris, writing occasionally to his father in Baltimore. Under date of December 25th 1804, he writes again, and refers to the shipwreck. "I wrote you," says he, from this place on the 4th inst., "*via* Amsterdam and Bordeaux, and have since received your letter of the 2d of November, which informed me of the unfortunate accident which befell Jerome in his attempt to return. The two frigates which were at New York arrived about ten days since at L'Orient. His brother is extremely angry at his not coming with them. After speaking the other day of him in very harsh terms, he observed that, as to his marriage, he could view it in no other light than a *camp one*—the laws of France acknowledging no contract of this nature valid when entered into by a person under twenty-five years of age. Maupertuis had an interview yesterday with the mother. She says orders have been sent to the different ports to arrest him if they came together, and to send her back to the United States. She fears the execution of these orders—having no doubt they will be rigidly enforced—will make so much noise throughout Europe that it will be impossible to re-tread the steps, and perhaps preclude the possibility of a reconciliation. She will write him, recommending his coming *alone* to France, and his sending his wife to Holland. She is of opinion if he adopts this plan, and continues firmly attached to his wife, a reconciliation may be brought





about. I wish most sincerely this may get to hand in time for him to avail himself of it. I highly approve of the advice of his good and amiable mother, and recommend in the most earnest manner his adopting it. It might be advisable for his wife and the persons accompanying her to Holland to take fictitious names, to avoid the *buzz* her arrival would occasion, and to prevent her being the stare of the town whilst the negotiation is going forward. Maupertuis is appointed to the consulate at Rotterdam, and goes on to that place next week.

"I intend setting out to-morrow for Bordeaux. My chief object in undertaking this jaunt is to meet them in case of their arriving there. If they come, and she should be ordered away, we will proceed to St. Sebastins. The proximity of that place to France will afford me an opportunity of corresponding with this country, and she will at least avoid a second winter's passage.

"I have been induced, by the shocking state of the roads, and the little probability of their arriving shortly at Bordeaux, to postpone my journey to that place some days longer."

Mr. Patterson here closes, and "no more at present" from France. On the 24th of November the young couple are announced as in motion, having fallen upon another expedient to "quit" the country. Leaving New York and Philadelphia in the distance, Baltimore becomes responsible for the consequences of another "buzz."

"Prince Jerome and his lady," says the penman,



“left the city on Thursday last for Annapolis, where they embarked for France on board the frigate President of 44 guns, which we understand immediately weighed anchor, and proceeded down the bay. The British frigate Revolutionnaire of 44 guns, has arrived in Hampton Roads, and if the commander is disposed for sport, he may have an opportunity of trying the prowess of his tars.” Here are 44 guns against 44 guns, and the course of true love, under the circumstances, does not run smooth in the Chesapeake; and on the 5th December, the young couple are announced as having arrived in Washington. The writer says: “Jerome Bonaparte and his lady arrived here yesterday noon. They had been on board the French frigate Le President, intending to go to France, but the English frigate Revolutionnaire had beat out of the capes, and was waiting for them, but the French were not then prepared. We understand, however, that it is the intention of the French captain to go out, neither inviting nor refusing an engagement. Whether Jerome will go or not, we are not informed.”

It must have required a courageous spirit, and indeed, we think, a daring one, to prompt Madamo Bonaparte—*young, gay and inexperienced*—to face war on the sea, and royalty and wrath in Paris, should she go to France. It is true, that those whom she would meet were her superiors *only* in the splendors attendant upon imperial power, and not in family. France was then *in transitu* from what was styled a republic to an absolute monarchy; and the revolution was moving so quietly on as to be almost



imperceptible. One of those great "strokes of state" which occasionally alarm mankind at widely distant periods, had been made by bringing "soldiers into the sanctuary of the law," and thus were sown the seeds of change which brought forth the germ, the flower and the fruit of empire. At such a time a people become drunk on wine pressed out from haughty grapes, and in encountering men and women thus over-stimulated, Madame Bonaparte could look for nothing short of a humiliating reception. And the rigors of war, amid which Napoleon was rapidly advancing to the summit of his power, shut out diplomacy on the subject of the marriage.

Returning to our documentary history, it appears that the "gentleman who came with John," mentioned in Mr. Robert Patterson's letter of the 21st of July, was no less a personage than Mons. P. de Maupertuis, who had been visiting in America.

Departing from our main subject again into the wilds, and retracing our steps to about the beginning of the ides of March 1804, we take up another link in our chain of documentary history, which extends itself in a direct line toward the coronation of Napoleon and Josephine. During this unexpected excursion, we discover a wheel of powerful dimensions, and great capacities, propelled by a stream from the imperial fountain, toiling upon its ponderous gudgeons, wading deeply in waste-water, and winding its numberless leagues of cable, to draw Jerome from the "young person to whom he has attached himself," that he may be in France in time to figure in the fascinating



festivities of the approaching coronation. Maupertuis is at the wheel, and we will allow him to tell his own story in his own language, and we furnish the best translation we have in store.

Dating "Paris le 8 Mars 1804," he writes:—

"Je viens, mon cher Alexandre, de recevoir une lettre de vous par laquelle je me suis apperçu que les miennes ne vous étaient pas parvenues. Je ne vous dirai pas en gascon que je vous en ai écrit plusieurs, mais au moins deux. Soyez bien convaincu, mon cher ami, que l'absence n'a nullement affaibli mon attachement, mais vous savez qu'il faut aimer ses amis avec leurs défauts, et c'est toujours sur ce principe que je me salue avec les miens. Vous me parlez des plaisirs de Paris, du tourbillon dont je suis environné. Vous voyez les choses de loin, et seriez bien étonné de la vie que j'ai menée tout cet hiver ; il me tarde, je vous jure, d'en être sorti, et ça ne tardera pas. Quelle différence si M. J. B. y avait été ! que de fois j'ai regretté de ne pas le voir figurer dans les cérémonies où il aurait eu une aussi belle place ! Mais comme vous le dites, le malheur vous poursuit, et vous me rendez assez de justice pour croire à quel point j'en suis affligé.

"Ecrivez-moi, je vous prie, à Rotterdam le plus souvent que vous pourrez ; marquez-moi la vie que vous menez. Votre hiver n'aura pas été surement aussi gai que le dernier. Vous avez vu par la place que je viens d'avoir, que l'homme propose et Dieu dispose ; tous mes projets ont été bouleversés en un instant, mais je suis trop heureux, et il ne me reste plus qu'à mériter l'auguste bienveillance que l'E. m'a témoignée. Vous aurez eu un instant de consolation au passage d'Auguste aux Etats-Unis. Il y a un siècle que je n'ai reçu des nouvelles des miens. Comme vous avez beaucoup d'occasions pour Rotterdam, donnez-m'en, je vous prie, de notre pays. Voilà la belle saison qui arrive ; profitez des batiments qui ne tarderont pas à faire voile ; faites-moi aussi le plaisir de dire au cher Docteur mille choses affectueuses de ma part.





Rappelez-moi au souvenir de toutes les personnes qui m'ont témoigné quelque bienveillance; mes respects à Mlle. Spear à Mde. McDognall; enfin distribuez à qui de droit ce léger tribut de ma gratitude. Adieu, mon cher Alexandre, pensez quelquefois à quelqu'un qui vous est bien attaché et que vous devez croire sincèrement votre ami.

P. DE MAUPERTUIS."

TRANSLATION.

"My dear Alexander—I have just received one of your letters by which I see that you have not received mine. I will not tell you like a gascon, that I have written many, but at least two. Be well persuaded, my dear friend, that absence has not weakened my affections. I am a little lazy, but you know we must love our friends with their faults; and it is always on this principle, that I escape with mine. You speak to me of the pleasures of Paris—of the society by which I am surrounded. You see the thing from afar, and would be astonished at the life I have led all this winter. I long, I swear it to you, to be out of it, and this will take place before long! How different if Mr. Jerome Bonaparte had been here. How many times I have regretted not to see him figure in the ceremonies, where he would have had so fine a place! But as you say, misfortune pursues him, and you will render me justice enough to say how much I am afflicted by it. I pray you write to me at Rotterdam as often as you can. Let me know what kind of life you lead. Surely your winter has not been so pleasant as the last one.

"You will see by the office that I have just been appointed to, that man proposes and God disposes.



All my projects have been overthrown in one instant; but I am happy that I have now only to deserve the benevolence that the Emperor has shown me. You will have some consolation from the passage of August to the United States. It is an age since I have received any news from my friends. As you have a great many opportunities to send to Rotterdam, let me have some news from our country.

“The fine season is coming. Take advantage of the ships that will soon sail. Do me also the pleasure to say a thousand affectionate things on my part to the dear doctor. Remember me to the persons who have manifested an interest in me. My respects to Mrs. McDonald and to Miss Spear. In fine, distribute to those who have any right to this tribute, my gratefulness. Farewell, my dear Alexander, think sometimes of one who is sincerely connected to you by the ties of affection, and sincerely believe me to be your friend,

P. de MAUPERTUIS.

This letter was, no doubt, addressed to Alexander Le Camus, whose name will shortly appear on a future page of this book, in a very interesting connection. After M. Le Camus had kept this letter for sometime, it appears that he gave it to Mr. Robert Patterson in Amsterdam to be forwarded by him to America for his father's inspection.

In the same enclosure, comes another letter from the same writer. As before, we give the French and English both as they come to our hand. Dating Paris, 8th of March, as in the preceding letter, he says:—



“Vous voyez, mon cher Chambry, par la date de ma lettre, que je suis encore dans cette belle ville. Il y a cependant déjà trois mois que je suis nommé à la place de Consul à Rotterdam, mais pour aller remplir mon emploi, il me faut des instructions, et je ne les ai pas encore reçues. Je laisse mollement s'écouler le temps en attendant que je sois à la besogne. Vous dire que j'ai rempli mon but en obtenant cette place, ce serait vous tromper, mais l'Empereur a eu la bonté de me l'offrir. C'est un des premiers consulats, et des plus délicats à remplir dans cette circonstance ; et je me suis trouvé trop heureux de servir le héros pour lequel vous connaissez mon enthousiasme. J'espère que la manière dont je m'acquitterai de cet emploi me fera faire rapidement mon chemin. Vous me demanderez peut être quelles sont mes prétentions ! l'ambition. Eh bien ! oui—jamais je ne me suis trouvé dans une aussi belle passe ; l'âge s'avance, et il n'y a rien de pis que de végéter dans une passive vieillesse. Vous connaissez mon attachement immuable pour M. J. B. ; il ne manque ici que sa personne pour compléter mon bonheur.

“J'ai reçu de lui ces jours passés, une lettre par laquelle il m'engage à aller le rejoindre. Que ne donnerais-je pas pour en avoir la faculté ! mais c'est chose impossible d'obtenir. J'ose espérer qu'il me rendra justice. Dites-lui, je vous prie, que rien dans le monde ne saurait altérer mon attachement. S'il ne fallait que sacrifier pour le servir toutes mes espérances, je croirais encore peu faire pour tous les témoignages d'amitié qu'il n'a cessé de me donner dans un siècle où on ne manque que trop ses sentiments sur le degré de faveur ou sont portés les personnes, ou on ose à peine laisser entrevoir ceux qu'on éprouve pour des êtres intéressants accablés sous le poids du malheur. Jamais pareil calcul n'a pénétré chez moi. Je suis attaché à M. J. B. Je l'ai dit à l'E., qui malgré tout son courroux n'a pu me blamer. Je ne me suis pas trouvé une fois avec l'Impératrice que je vois souvent, sans lui en parler. Madame sa mère, le Prince Louis me rendront justice à cet égard ; mais hélas ! que peuvent les vœux stériles que je forme continuellement ?



“Je n'ose lui écrire; quels conseils pourrai-je lui donner? Il faut qu'il ait été poursuivi bien obstinément par une fatale destinée pour l'empêcher d'arriver ici vers l'époque du sacre. Sa résignation, les circonstances où nous nous trouvions, eussent peut-être calmé la rigueur de l'E. J'ai lu ces jours derniers dans la gazette un paragraphe concernant son mariage qui ne laisse aucun doute sur les intentions (au moins actuelles) de l'E.; mais peut-être la présence de M. J. B. ferait-elle changer ses dispositions. A sa place je reviendrais seul en France; sa présence ferait plus que tout ce que pourront les sollicitations de qui que ce soit. Je lui ai envoyé il y a quelques jours une lettre de Madame sa Mère qui à ce qu'elle m'a dit lui donne les seuls conseils qu'il ait à suivre. J'avoue que je crois l'E. très irrité, mais que n'a-t-on pas droit d'attendre d'un homme dont toutes les actions sont marquées au coin de la grandeur? M. J. B. expiera peut-être par une disgrâce momentanée la cause de ses chagrins, mais qui peut craindre un frère dont la conduite par la suite ne manquera pas de rétablir dans tous ses droits?

“L'E. ainsi que l'Impératrice se disposent à faire un voyage en Italie, qui, dit-on, doit durer 4 ou 5 mois; on assigne à ce voyage différents motifs, mais personne ne les connaît au juste. Quant à moi, je partirai vraisemblablement d'ici à 15 jours pour Rotterdam, ainsi si vous m'écrivez et que je puisse vous être bon à quelque chose, adressez moi directement vos lettres dans cette ville.

“Parlez, je vous prie, souvent de moi à M. J. B. Dites-lui combien je regrette de ne pouvoir me rendre à ses désirs. Offrez-lui les assurances de mon respectueux dévouement, ainsi qu'à l'interessante dame qui partage avec lui les rigueurs du sort. Mille compliments à M. Patterson; je vois son fils, qui est un charmant jeune homme, et avec qui vous auriez grand plaisir à faire connaissance.

“Adieu, mon cher Chambry. Revenez-ici le plutôt que vous pourrez. Conservez-moi votre amitié, et croyez à l'attachement sans bornes de votre dévoué

P. DE MAUPERTUIS.”





TRANSLATION.

"You see, my dear Chambry, by the date of my letter that I am still in this fine city. Three months ago I was nominated Consul at Rotterdam; but I am waiting for instructions, and I have not yet received them. I leave time to glide softly away in waiting till I shall be busy. In telling you that I have obtained my aims in obtaining this place, I would deceive you; but the Emperor has had the kindness to offer it to me. It is one of the first consulships, and the most difficult to discharge the duties of, in the circumstances, and I am but too happy to serve the hero for whom you know my enthusiasm. I hope that the manner in which I will discharge my duties will quickly raise me to a high position. Perhaps you will ask me what are my pretensions—ambition? Well, yes! I have never found myself in so fine a situation. Time goes fast. There is nothing worse than to vegetate in a passive old age.

"You know my immutable affection for Mr. Jerome Bonaparte. I want nothing but his presence to complete my happiness. I have lately received a letter from him in which he presses me to rejoin him. What would I not give to have the power to do so? But it is impossible. I should want a leave of absence which it would be impossible to obtain. I dare hope he will do me justice. Tell him that nothing in the world could alter my affection. If it was only necessary to sacrifice all my hopes to serve him, I should still think I was doing little for all the evidences of friendship which he has never ceased



giving me in an age when we measure but too much our feelings by the degrees of favor which is shown to persons; when we hardly dare to let any one see the feeling we have for an interesting being crushed down under the weight of misfortune. Never has such a calculation entered into my mind. I am attached to M. Bonaparte. I have said it to the Emperor, who, in spite of his wrath, has not been able to blame me. I have not been once with the Empress, whom I often see, without speaking to her of it. Madame his mother, and the Prince Louis will render me justice concerning this. But, alas! of what avail are all the empty wishes I continually entertain?

"I dare not write to him! What advice can I give him? He must have been very obstinately pursued by a fatal destiny, to hinder him from arriving here about the time of the coronation. His resignation, and the circumstances in which we found ourselves, might perhaps have calmed the anger of the Emperor.

"I have read lately in the paper a paragraph which leaves no doubt of the intentions of the Emperor, at least for the time being; but the presence of M. Jerome Bonaparte would perhaps change his dispositions. In his place, I would come back *alone* to France. His presence would do more than all the solicitations of any one. A few days ago, I sent him a letter from Madame his mother, who, according to what she has told me, gave him the only counsel he must follow. I confess that I believe the Emperor is very much irritated; but what have we not to ex-



pect from a man all whose actions are marked by the stamp of greatness? M. Jerome Bonaparte will perhaps atone, by a momentary disgrace, the cause of all his vexation. But who can fear a brother whose conduct will not fail in due time to re-establish all his rights?

"The Emperor and Empress are preparing for a journey to Italy, which it is said may last four or five months. People attribute different motives to this journey; but nobody knows them positively. As for me, it is very likely I shall start from this place to Rotterdam in about fifteen days. Thus, if you write to me, and I can be useful to you in any way, address me your letters directly in that city.

"Speak, I pray you, often from me to M. Jerome Bonaparte. Tell him how much I regret not to be able to meet his wishes. Offer him the assurances of my respectful devotion; also to the interesting lady who shares with him the rigors of fate. A thousand compliments to Mr. Patterson. I see his son, who is a charming young man, and with whom it would give you great pleasure to become acquainted.

"Farewell, my dear Chambry. Come back here as soon as you can. Preserve me your friendship, and believe in the affections without limit of your devoted

P. DE MAUPERTUIS."

The letters of Maupertuis are without any address, but it appears that they were intended for some gentlemen at that time in America. In the preceding letter, he says of Jerome, "I dare not write to him."



This perhaps will give the reason why his letters, with information for Jerome, are addressed to others.

The next letter written by this gentleman, like the others, lacks the address, but we give it in full as we find it.

“Paris, 28 Septembre 1804.

“Je suis sur, mon cher Alexandre, que vous êtes fâché contre moi, parceque depuis longtemps vous n'avez pas reçu directement de mes nouvelles. Ne m'en voulez pas pour cela; beaucoup d'affaires, un peu de paresse, et la grande confiance que j'ai en votre amitié, voilà mes seules excuses; vous saurez déjà que je suis placé à Rotterdam, où je dois me rendre ces jours-ci. Je ne dois cette place qu'aux bontés de l'Empereur, et vous sentez avec quel zèle je la remplirai.

“Dites bien des choses, je vous prie, pour moi au cher docteur, à Barney, à McKim et autres personnes qui veulent bien se ressouvenir du Baron, mes hommages respectueux à Madame McDonnal, et Mlle. Spear. Je ne vous parle pas politique, je ne vous dis même grand' chose, parceque le sort des lettres dans ce temps-ci est très incertain.

“Augusto vous aura dit combien nous avons parlé de vous. Il sera surement rendu à présent à la Martinique. Adieu, mon cher Alexandre, pensez quelque fois à moi, et donnez-moi de vos nouvelles malgré ma paresse. Croyez à mon attachement.  
P. DE MAUPERTUIS.”

#### TRANSLATION.

“I am sorry, my dear Alexander, that you are angry against me, because you have been so long without receiving any direct news from me. Do not be angry against me for that. A great deal of business, a little laziness, and the great confidence that I have in your friendship, are my only apology. You already know that I have a position at Rotterdam,





whither I must go in a few days. I owe this place only to the kindness of the Emperor, and you know with what zeal I shall perform its duties. I pray you to say many things for me to the doctor, to Barney, to McKim, and other persons who are willing to remember the Baron. Present my respects to Mrs. McDonnell and Miss Spear. I do not tell you anything about politics. I don't even say many things, because now-a-days the fate of letters is very uncertain. August will tell you how many times we have spoken of you. Surely he will have gone to Martinique for the present.

"Farewell, my dear Alexander. Think sometimes of me, and let me have some news from you, in spite of my laziness. Believe in my affection.

P. DE MAUPERTUIS."

This writer, it appears, addresses his next letter to a friend in Amsterdam, and we give it in full.

"Paris, 4 Brumaire, 1804.

"J'ai reçu avant hier, mon cher ami, à retour de la campagne, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'amitié de m'écrire. Je suis bien convaincu que vous vous ennuyez mortellement à Rotterdam, mais vous jouissez d'une bonne santé, et c'est là l'essentiel. Depuis bien longtemps je n'ai reçu des nouvelles de M. J. B. ni directement ni indirectement. Je suis bien fâché qu'il n'ait pu se rendre en France avant le sacre.

"C'était le moment, et malgré le courroux de l'E. j'ose espérer que tout se serait arrangé. Le sacre est remis décidément au 15 Frimaire. Le pape ne sera rendu que le 2 Paris. Si vous y venez, vous pourrez voir à votre aise la cérémonie ou du moins le cortège, sans avoir besoin d'un billet, parcequ'il passera tout le long des Boulevards pour se rendre à Notre Dame. Ce sera sûrement le plus beau spectacle qui se soit



jamais vu. Il me tarde bien que ce soit fait ; il ne nous manque qu'une paix générale pour être heureux. On ne croirait jamais qu'il ait eu une révolution en France, et on a beau dire il n'y avait dans le monde qu'un héros comme le nôtre capable d'opérer un tel changement.

"Je ne conçois pas comment de certaines gazettes peuvent se plaire dans toutes leurs injures. Ce sont de ces libelles qui font peu d'honneur à leur rédacteurs, car enfin qu'étonnons-nous il y a trois ans et à moins d'être dépourvus de tous sentimens d'humanité, on ne peut qu'admirer et vénérer le génie qui gouverne la France ! Si vous recevez des nouvelles de là-bas ne manquez de me les donner ! Marquez-moi aussi si vous êtes décidé à venir ici ! Adieu, mon cher ami, portez vous bien, et croyez à mon sincère attachement.

"P. DE MAUPERTUIS."

#### TRANSLATION.

"Paris, October 24th 1804.

"My dear friend: I received yesterday evening on returning from the country the letter which you have been so friendly as to write. I am well convinced that you are tired of Amsterdam, but you enjoy good health, and that is the essential thing. For a very long time I have not received any news from M. Jerome Bonaparte, neither directly nor indirectly. I am very sorry that he has not been able to return in France before the coronation. It was the proper time, and in spite of the wrath of the Emperor, I dare hope that all would have been satisfactorily settled. The coronation will take place on the 15th Frimaire. The Pope will arrive in Paris on the 2d. If you come you will be able to see the ceremony in comfort, or at least the procession, without requiring a ticket, because it will pass all along the Boulevards to go to Notre Dame. It will certainly be the finest



spectacle which has ever been seen. I long to see it take place. We only want a general peace to be happy. No one would believe there has been a revolution in France; and people may say what they please, there is only one hero in the world like ours able to accomplish such a change. I do not know how certain papers can delight in their abusive language. They utter libels which do very little honor to their authors, for what were we less than three years ago? and unless we are deprived of all feelings of humanity, we can but admire and revere the genius which rules France. If you receive any news from London let me know. Do not fail to tell me also if you are decided to come here. Farewell, my dear friend, keep in good health, and believe in my sincere affection.

P. DE MAUPERTUIS."

Mons. Maupertuis still continues his correspondence from Paris, and the following letter came as an enclosure in Mr. Robert Patterson's letter from Paris, dated the 25th December 1804:—

"Paris, le 25 Decembre 1804.

"Il y a quelques jours, mon cher Chambry, que je reçus une lettre de vous qui me fit le plus grand plaisir, parcequ'elle me donne l'espoir de vous revoir bientôt; les destinées en ont autrement ordonné. Il faut se résigner, quoiqu'il en coûte. Je ne sais si vous avez reçu toutes les lettres que j'ai eu le plaisir de vous écrire, on ne sait en vérité comment faire pour entretenir en temps de guerre une correspondance d'aussi loin. Si vous voyez M. J. B., dites-lui, je vous prie, de ne pas être fâché contre moi, si je ne lui écris pas. Les lettres peuvent être prises, et les Anglais en font des gorges-chaudes dans leurs gazettes, ce dont on se moque; ce n'est pas là l'embarras, mais



ça ne laisse pas que d'être désagréable. Quant à nous autres simples particuliers, l'inconvénient n'est pas aussi grand. Je mène toujours la même vie ; il me tarde d'en sortir, ce qui ne tardera pas, car sa majesté a eu la bonté de me nommer au Consulat de Rotterdam, où je compte me rendre aussitôt l'expédition de mes ordres. Si je peux vous être bon à quelque chose dans ce pays-là, disposez de moi sans façon. Nous avons eu ici des fêtes superbes. J'ai assisté à presque toutes les cérémonies, et comme j'y étais de cœur, vous sentez combien elles m'ont intéressé.

"Voilà donc la France revenue à un gouvernement après lequel tous les honnêtes gens aspiraient. Dieu veuille conserver celui qui en est le chef ; c'est à présent le vœu que forme tout bon Français. Que de fois au milieu de ces vœux-là, j'ai regretté de ne pas y voir M. J. B. Il faut que le malheur lui en veuille bien pour qu'il trouve tant d'obstacles à son retour. Madame sa mère est arrivée ces jours derniers de Rome. J'ai été lui rendre mes hommages hier ; il n'est pas possible d'en être reçu avec plus d'affabilité : elle m'a beaucoup parlé de M. son fils, et est très affectée de sa disgrâce. Elle doit m'envoyer aujourd'hui une lettre pour lui, que je renfermerai dans la mienne et que je vous prie de lui remettre.

"Elle se plaint de n'en avoir pas reçu, ce qui n'est pas étonnant, vu toutes les entraves de la guerre. Il fera fort bien, je crois, de lui donner au plutôt de ses nouvelles. J'ai remis à l'Impératrice celle que M. J. B. m'avait adressée pour Elle. Il me paraît qu'elle lui en ne peut plus attachée. Je suis convaincu que si M. J. B. arrivant ici et se jettant aux pieds de son auguste frère, plaideront mieux la cause que les meilleurs avocats, quoiqu'il paraît toujours indisposé. J'ai envoyé il y a quelques temps à M. J. B. une lettre du Prince Louis qui sûrement lui traçait la conduite qu'il a à tenir. Quant à moi je donnerais la moitié de mon existence pour qu'il fut rendu en France. Plus il tardera et plus l'Empereur sera irrité. Ce qui me rassure c'est que ce héros qui jusqu'à présent a pardonné à ses plus grands ennemis ne sera pas inexorable à l'égard d'un frère qu'il chérit beaucoup. M. Patterson a eu la bonté





de m'écrire et de me faire part du malheureux naufrage de M. J. B. Personne n'a été plus affligé de ce malheureux événement que Mde. B. a dû souffrir, mais il faut croire que c'est peut être une catastrophe qui finira toutes leurs peines !

“ Les deux frégates françaises sont arrivées à Lorient, après une belle traversée qu'il eût été heureux que M. J. B. eût pu profiter de cette occasion, il arrivait dans un bien beau moment. A mon arrivée à Rotterdam je vous écrirai, y ayant de fréquentes occasions pour l'Amérique. J'ai vu ici M. Robert Patterson, qui est venu y passer quelques temps pour ses affaires de commerce ; il écrit à M. son père et se charge de vous faire parvenir cette lettre ; donnez-moi, je vous prie, des nouvelles. Offrez mes respects à M. et Mde. J. B. ; et croyez, mon cher Chambry, au devouement de votre sincere ami,

“ P. DE MAUPERTUIS.”

#### TRANSLATION.

“ My dear Chambry : A few days ago I received a letter which gave me the greatest pleasure, because it gave me the hope of seeing you soon again. The fates have ordered otherwise. We must be resigned, whatever it costs. I do not know if you have received all the letters that I have had the pleasure of writing to you. Truly, we do not know how to carry on a correspondence at such a distance in time of war. If you see M. Jerome Bonaparte tell him, if you please, not to be angry against me if I do not write to him. The letters may be captured and the English make fun of them ; in their newspapers people laugh at them ; it is not of much consequence, but it is not the less unpleasant. As for us private individuals, the inconvenience is not so great. Here I always live in the same manner. I long to go out of it, which will not be long, for his Majesty has had the kindness to



nominate me to the Consulship at Rotterdam, where I expect to go as soon as I shall have received my instructions. If I can be of any use to you in that country, dispose of me as you think best. Here we have had splendid fêtes. I have assisted in almost all the ceremonies, and as I was in sympathy with them you know how much they have interested me.

“Behold, then, France returned to a form of government according to the wishes of all honest people! God preserve him who is at the head of it! It is now the prayer which all good Frenchmen make! How many times in making these ejaculations have I regretted that M. Jerome Bonaparte is absent! Misfortunes must pursue him eagerly, that he finds so many obstacles to his return.

“Madame, his mother, is arrived lately from Rome. Yesterday I paid her a visit. It was impossible to be received with more affability. She spoke a great deal about her son. She is very much affected by his disgrace. She will send me a letter to-day which I will enclose in mine, and I pray you to have the kindness to remit it to him.

“She complains of not having received any letters; which is not wonderful, considering all the impediments of the war. I have remitted to the Empress the letter that M. Jerome Bonaparte had addressed to me for her. It appears to me that she is very much attached to him. I am satisfied that, if M. Jerome Bonaparte on arriving here throws himself at the feet of his august brother, he would plead his cause better than the best of lawyers, though he appeared so very much dissatisfied some time ago.



"I send a letter from the Prince Louis to M. Jerome Bonaparte, showing him what course to pursue. I would give half my existence for his return to France. The more he delays, the more the Emperor will be irritated. But what reassures me is, that the hero who, till now, has forgiven his greatest enemies, will not be inexorable regarding a brother whom he cherishes so much. Mr. Patterson has had the goodness to write to me, and let me know the unhappy shipwreck of M. Jerome Bonaparte. Nobody has been more afflicted, or has suffered more by this unhappy event than Mrs. Jerome Bonaparte; but we must believe that this is perhaps a catastrophe which will finish all their sorrows.

"The two frigates are arrived at L'Orient after a fine voyage. It would have been well if M. Jerome Bonaparte had been able to profit by this opportunity. He would have arrived at the most propitious moment. After my arrival at Rotterdam I will write to you, having frequent opportunities for America. I have seen Mr. Robert Patterson, who has come to pass some time upon his commercial affairs. He writes to his father, and takes charge to remit you this letter. Please let me have some news from you. Present my respects to Mrs. and Mr. Jerome Bonaparte, and believe my dear Chambry, in the devotion of your true friend,  
P. DE MAUPERTUIS."

In this letter Maupertuis fully describes himself, and at the time of writing, the coronation referred to in several of his letters had taken place at the altar



of Notre Dame; and the world had been dazzled by the sight, and the following description of it. It took place on the 2d of December 1804, Pope Pius VII., then in Paris, officiating.

“When his Majesty the Emperor approached the altar to be crowned, he took the imperial crown himself and placed it upon his head. It was a diadem of oak and laurel leaves in gold. His Majesty afterwards took the crown destined for the Empress, and after having decorated himself with it for a moment, he placed it upon the head of his august consort. The firmness, grandeur, and nobleness of her manner drew from every quarter shouts of admiration and joy. The mixed dignity, grace, and modesty marked by every one in the demeanor of the Empress in quitting the canopy under which she had been received at the entrance of Notre Dame, are the theme of general conversation.”





## CHAPTER VI.

Maupertuis retires—Napoleon appears again—His prestige—Battle of Austerlitz—Young couple contemplate sailing—Reflections on the embarkation—Robert Patterson on speculation—General Smith again—P. Cuneo De Ornano—His letter—Mr. Patterson's letter—General Armstrong—Letter from M. Meyronet to Jerome—Mr. Patterson alarmed—He writes in cipher—The *Moniteur*—Lucien Bonaparte in prison—Jerome to be thrown in prison—*Betsy* to be sent back—The young couple embark for Europe—Departure from Baltimore—General Tuerreau, French Minister—Jerome's horses—Mr. Carrere—"London-particular-three-years-old wine"—General Rewbell's letter—Jonathan Jones—Wet letters—Bordeaux Gazette.

MAUPERTUIS, a small asteroid, revolving around the Napoleonic centre, after affording the very agreeable light from the letters which appear in the preceding chapter, *goes out*, and we shall see him no more as a correspondent; yet he has engraved his name in the indestructible flint of words; and he will not therefore be forgotten by the generations of men whose coming quickened his departure. With the Christmas festivities of 1804, he disappears, to take charge of his Consulate at Rotterdam, and from him we hear no more secrets from the throne.

Bidding farewell to the year 1804, we enter upon a detail of the wonderful events of 1805. In this year, Napoleon answers the charges of territorial usurpations by encroachments upon the North of



Europe; and a war is about to be precipitated which will deluge the continent with blood. Napoleon will be crowned King of Italy, and the battle of Austerlitz will be fought. As "westward the star of empire holds its way," so flows the tide of conquest southward; and Napoleon, discovering this perhaps in advance of his coteremporaries, marches northward in time to check it, and the prestige of a descent upon him. He knew that war *conducts itself by prestige and by panic*. These go before a moving army. Prestige dazzles and demoralizes the enemy; panic takes him prisoner; the army moves up, and the victory is easy. If therefore the combined armies, opposed to Napoleon at the battle of Austerlitz, could have availed themselves of the advantages of time and marched down upon Napoleon, the prestige would have been with them, panic would have seized the French, and Paris would have yielded to the forces of siege. Bonaparte's main victories were won from the prestige that accompanied him on his grand marches; and we cannot see that he gained a victory at Austerlitz by any superior abilities he possessed, but by the advantage he took of a blunder caused by the panic which had gone before him, and seized a division of the allied armies.

In the midst of the most extensive preparations for war, when Napoleon is giddy from the adulterated wines of exaltation, and when he is fondly dreaming that his dominion and that of his family will be an "everlasting dominion," the wife of Jerome goes to Europe. Already, in America, she is hemmed in by



rising clouds, and to cross the Atlantic is but to quail and quiver before an awful squall. None save heartless eyes will behold her in France even, if, after her voyage, she should be allowed to refresh herself on its territory. Her fame and beauty go before her, and sadly wait her coming. There, a friend she will fear to make, for the smiles which she may behold will be those provoked by the demon of deception; and unforgiven monsters will perhaps eagerly pursue her. In the warm floral spring of hope she will rejoice awhile before she embarks; but even then, in her rejoicings, she will behold in her future much of the autumnal and but little of the vernal. But she must go to Europe! The strange music of the billow will, for a season, charm away her misgivings, and inspire her with hope that her arrival will strike the cold steel of Napoleon's heart, and bring out, at last, a spark of leniency. This is all.

Whilst the young couple indulge in the festivities of the society of Baltimore during the winter previous to their embarkation for Europe, we will place before the reader another letter from Mr. Robert Patterson, who is passing the winter in Paris. On account of the historical interest it possesses, we give the letter in full. It is addressed to his father.

“Paris, 7th January 1805.

“Dear Sir,

“I am now to explain to you a speculation I have in view, which, if it can be executed, cannot fail of proving immensely advantageous. Our government are very desirous of obtaining from Spain a



cession of East Florida. This object, I think, will soon be effected, either by the direct negotiation now carrying on, or else by the mediation of this government.

“My wish is to endeavor to get a grant from the court of Madrid for some of the unappropriated lands in that country, previous to its being ceded to the United States; and I do not apprehend there will be much difficulty in doing it—as what they may get in this way will be so much saved; for all the lands of this description would of course be ceded without remuneration, as in the case of Louisiana, if a cession of the jurisdiction of the country is made to the United States.

“It is imagined there are about 3,000,000 of acres unlocated, the whole of which may be probably purchased at 3, 4, or 5 cents per acre. This business has appeared to me so important that I have written to Lucien, mentioning it to him, and saying at the same time everything I thought necessary to induce him to take an interest in it, either for himself, or Jerome, to whom I have said it would be a secure and brilliant fortune. His answer ought to be here in three or four weeks. If he approves of the plan, and the cession is retarded sufficiently to give me an opportunity, I shall set out to see him in order to make the arrangements to carry it into execution. If he joins in it, we can treat for the whole; but if he does not, we must endeavor to get grants for the choicest of them. There is a part well adapted to the culture of sea-island cotton. We will make our-





selves well informed as to the local situation of the country, so that, if we cannot embrace the whole, we may make a judicious selection. Mr. O'Meally, with whom you are no doubt acquainted, is the person to whom I am indebted for the hint of the speculation. He will embark \$20,000 in it, and I shall interest you as far as from \$25,000 to \$30,000, provided it can be executed upon the terms I have stated. If I could with any kind of propriety mention to you the person that the scheme originated with, you would be satisfied it is well conceived, and is not impracticable in execution. Be assured, however, that I prize too much your good opinion and confidence to embark you in a speculation in which I do not see my way very clear; and I shall weigh every circumstance in the present before I commit you. Do not lose any time in giving me your opinion in the fullest manner on this subject. I beg what I have said may not be communicated to any person, lest it might injure those who are concerned.

“The business of the claims is progressing pretty rapidly. Many of them have passed the last ordeal—the inspection of our ambassador, and that of the minister of finance here. The whole affair will shortly be terminated by an emission of the bills. It cannot but afford you pleasure to learn that our worthy friend Bentalou has received \$40,000. This sum will make him comfortable the remainder of his life. He will have to receive on account of the bills of others to the amount of 700,000 francs. He intends remitting them to you for collection, and to be paid



over to the proprietors, after deducting his commissions; and the expenses incurred in prosecuting them. He tells me Mr. Skipwith represents about 6,000,000, which he will probably send to you also for collection; and that he intends, in case of determining on this, to make a proposal to me to pay him his commissions, and the expenses due him from them, amounting to about \$80,000, in this place, twelve months after the bills are sent from hence. He expects to be paid at the rate of 108 sous for the dollar. I give you this as I received it. When I have his proposals, I shall make the best terms I can as to commissions, &c. Bentalou will want about \$20,000 on account of his claims. I will let him have it at the discount that may be established, which I expect will be about 10 per cent. Skipwith will probably require as much—not more, however; and in the event of his putting the business I have spoken of into our hands, I shall accommodate him on the same terms. Exchange on Holland is not quite so disadvantageous as it was. I could draw at this moment without losing more than *one* per cent.

“In a short time, I will have it in my power to inform you more particularly with regard to the land affair, and what is the result of the claim business, that you may make your arrangements accordingly.

“9th January.—Our friend Maupertuis is making preparations to repair to his consulate at Rotterdam. To assist him in his outfits, I have given him a draft on S. & H. for F3000 current money. He returns



me his obligation for the like sum with interest, payable in twelve months.

“The negotiation for East Florida is to be transferred from Madrid to this place. I am sure this matter will not be so easily arranged as I first thought. Our government expected to have got that country by giving as a recompense the claims of its citizens on Spain for depredations, and will not consent to pay another farthing out of the treasury for the purchase of territory. The language of this government is, *we will, as the friends of Spain, take care of her interests; we will treat with you for the country; but it is absurd to suppose you can have it for nothing; and we will be satisfied without recompense for our interference.*

“The government of the United States think they have a right to the country, and will very probably take it by force of arms. If you see any movement of our troops which indicates such an intention, I would advise you instantly desisting from any shipments to France, Spain, and Holland even, as I do not think property would be secure in either country.

“I shall of course give McIlhenny & Glennie timely information, that they may stop any of our vessels which may call with them, in case it should be necessary. The cession may, however, be still brought about in an amicable manner, and without any expense to our government, which is by Spain's giving jurisdiction of the country to us as an off-set to the demands of our citizens on her, and by raising a company in Holland which might, for a grant of the



unappropriated lands, give a sufficient sum to the officers of this government to recompense them for their mediation. If anything of this nature is determined on, it is not improbable that I may be employed in the business, as they know my acquaintance with Holland. My last letter to you was of the 25th ult. In this I recommended Jerome's returning alone to France, and his sending his wife to Holland. Nothing has occurred since to induce me to think a different conduct advisable.

“Yours very affectionately,

“ROBERT PATTERSON.”

Under date of January 13th 1805, Gen. Samuel Smith, then a member of Congress, writes to William Patterson, Esquire, in Baltimore. From his letter we copy the following paragraph :

“Mr. Bonaparte arrived here at eleven o'clock. He is well, and Nancy is in high spirits. Tell Betsy that I have called twice on Stuart, but he was from home.”

This locates Bonaparte in Washington and his wife in Baltimore for the present; but we cannot enlighten the reader so much as to give a biographical sketch of “Nancy.”

In compliance with the order of time in which events successively occur, we pause again to bring in another writer. He hails from St. Croix de Teneriffe, writes good French, it is said, and we give his letter in full:—





“ St. Croix de Ténériffe, le 30 Nivose, an 2 Empire fran.

Le Commissaire des Relations Commerciales de l' Empire  
Français aux Canaries,

A Son Altesse Imperialé le Prince Jérôme Bonaparte :

“ Je ne doute point, qu'étant si éloigné de l'Europe, V. A. Imperial ne reçoit avec plaisir les nouvelles d'un concitoyen, qui a l'honneur de vous faire des compliments sur votre mariage, et fait des vœux pour votre prospérité, et de l'aimable princesse, que vous avez cru digne de votre choix. Elle est parfaitement connu par M<sup>lle</sup>. Damestre, qui se trouve actuellement dans cette ville ; pour tout ce qu'elle me dit, elle brillera à Paris, et fera les délices de votre auguste famille, et de la société. Je serais fort heureux si à votre retour le hasard pouvait me procurer l'honneur de vous recevoir en ce port, et vous procurer quelques rafraichissements.

“ Je ne puis vous donner des nouvelles fraîches de la France. Les dernières que j'ai reçu sont datées du 18 Brumaire. La guerre entre l'Espagne et S. M. I. est déclarée, ce qui rend notre correspondance très difficile. Le meurtre de 300 sujets de S. M., l'enlèvement d'un trésor considérable et par une agression préméditée, ont aliéné le reste d'attachement ou du moins des rapports, qui subsistait encore entre les deux cours. Dans cette conjoncture actuellement critique, mais qui par l'avenir ne tournera qu'à la destruction plus certaine de la puissance anglaise.

“ Le sacre de S. M. I. avait été renvoyé au 4 Nivose. Le pape était attendu ainsi que la Princesse Votre Mère, et le Cardinal Fesch. Les préparatifs pour cette auguste cérémonie annoncent les plus grandes réjouissances.

“ Ceux qu'on fait pour la descente en Angleterre s'exécutent avec la plus grande vigueur qui étonne, quoique personne ne peut pénétrer les intentions de S. M. I. On est généralement persuadé, qu'elle pourra s'effectuer malgré la rigueur de l'hiver. Dieu fasse que tout aille bien au gré des désirs de tout bon Français. Une nouvelle est répandue et dont je ne puis vous assurer, que la flotte de Brest composée de 27 vaisseaux sous le commandement de l'Amiral Ganteaume est sortie en trom-



pant la vigilance des Anglais. Si elle est vraie, nous apprendrons bientôt quelque coup funeste porté sur nos ennemis.

“Nos troupes sont à Hambourg, on s'est emparé de tous les comptoirs anglais.

“Je désire que cette lettre vous parvienne, elle me procurait l'avantage de recevoir des nouvelles de S. A. I. Daignez disposer de votre Concitoyen avec l'assurance du plus grand attachement, et du plus profond respect.

“CUNEO D'ORNANO.”

#### TRANSLATION.

“St. Croix of Teneriffe,

“January 20th 1805.

“The Commissary of Commercial Relations of the French Empire to the Canaries,

“To His Imperial Highness

The Prince Jerome Bonaparte :

“I do not doubt that, being so far from Europe, your Imperial Highness will receive with pleasure the news of your fellow-citizen who has the honor to compliment you on your marriage, and heartily pray for your prosperity, and that of the lovely princess you have thought worthy of your choice.

“She is perfectly known by Mrs. Dumestre, who is now in this city. Mrs. Dumestre tells me she will shine in Paris, and constitute the delight of your august family and of society. I should be most happy if, in your return home, I should be lucky enough to receive you in this port and procure you some refreshments.

“I cannot give you any new intelligence from France. The latest I have received is dated the 18th



Brumaire (12th November.) War between Spain and H. I. M. is declared, which renders our correspondence very difficult.

“The murder of three hundred subjects of H. I. M., and the capture of considerable treasure by premeditated aggression, have alienated the remaining ties, or rather the relations which existed between the two courts, and in this critical conjuncture, will in future turn to the sure destruction of the English power.

“The coronation of H. I. M. has been postponed to the 25th of January. The Pope was expected, as well as the Princess your mother, and Cardinal Fesch. The preparations for this august ceremony portend a time of great rejoicing. Those which are made for the landing in England are going on with the greatest vigor, but nobody can penetrate the designs of H. I. M. People are generally persuaded that it will take place in spite of the rigors of winter. God grant that all may turn out to the satisfaction of all good Frenchmen. A report has been spread abroad, that the Brest fleet, composed of twenty-seven ships of the line under the command of Admiral Gonteaume, has sailed out, evading the vigilance of the English. If this is true, we shall soon hear of some heavy blow given to the enemy.

“Our troops are in Hamburg, and have taken possession of all the English factories. I wish that you may receive this letter, in order that I may receive some news of H. I. H. Please consider me at your service, with the assurance of the greatest affection



and the greatest respect. Your most humble and obedient servant,

P. CUNEO D'ORNANO."

On the 29th January 1805, Mr. Patterson writes again to his father in Baltimore. His letter is of no interest whatever to a reader at this late day. It is principally of a commercial character, giving prices current, &c. ; but those paragraphs which have a bearing upon our subject, we copy. He says: "Respecting the business I opened to you in my letter of the 7th and 9th inst., we wait for the answer to my letter to Rome before we take any measures in the business. Mr. Monroe in a letter from Madrid states that that court has it in contemplation to throw open the trade of its colonies to all neutral nations, on the condition that the adventurers will pay at Madrid by anticipation the duties on their cargoes. You may depend on this information being correct. I would not however wish it mentioned as from me.

"As an accommodation to our friend Bentalou, I have agreed to lend him \$10,000, and have written to S. & H. to remit me a bill to that amount. I am to be reimbursed by a purchase of the bills, if I like the terms on which claims of this description sell at; otherwise, he will take up his obligation for the money lent, allowing me interest on the same. I have a perfect recollection of your maxims on this head; but you must allow there are situations in which a deviation from them may be permitted, and this is one. He is a very worthy man, and the friendly interest he





takes in our concerns really lays us under obligations to him. It is thought the bills will be issued in the course of two or three weeks. Bentalou has claims of his own passed amounting to \$40,000, and represents others for about 600,000 francs, which, as I mentioned to you before, are to be remitted you for collection.

"I have seen Mr. Skipwith once since I wrote you. He mentioned to me that he expected to receive about six or seven millions of francs, and that he would also send them to you for collection. He did not say anything about the appropriation of his commissions.

"General Armstrong thinks from the result of the inquiries he has made respecting Jerome, that permission has been given him to return with his wife; and that though she may not be immediately recognised, she will ultimately, on his making the proper submissions for engaging himself so precipitately, without having obtained the approbation of his family.

"At the solicitations of a gentleman in Amsterdam who showed me some civility, I promised to send to America for a pipe or half a pipe of London-particular-three-years-old wine for him. Have the goodness to send one in the spring, of that kind.

"A number of Jerome's bills which were lying over have been accepted within a few days. We have had a paragraph in the newspapers taken from one in a New York paper of the 5th of December, stating that Jerome and his lady sailed from that city in the President French frigate, on the 2d of December."

We give as next in the order of time a letter, in



full, written from Paris by M. Meyronet, who says he is about to embark as second captain of the frigate *Canonnière*. It is addressed on the cover "Monsieur Jerome Bonaparte, Etats Unis D'Amerique." He does not beg Jerome to leave the "young person" in America, and come alone to France. Indeed he holds out no inducements for him to come, but rather encourages him to stay, and expresses a desire to be with him in America. Here is his letter :—

Paris, le 18 Pluviose, an 13.

"Monsieur : Il est probable que lorsque cette lettre vous parviendra, vous aurez reçu quelques unes de mes précédents, et par cette raison je crois superflu de vous en rappeler leur contenu. Mais les derniers événements dont j'ai à vous informer me conduisent à vous répéter combien j'ai été affligé de n'être pas revêtu de toute votre confiance dans une circonstance où j'aurais pu faire un usage bien cher à mon âme. Je crains bien que vous n'ayez pas rencontré ailleurs des dispositions, telles que vous les aviez supposées. Je dis seulement je le crains, sans que j'en aie pour cela la preuve ou indice certain, et je serais au désespoir de vous faire retirer votre estime de personnes, qui n'auraient point cessé de la mériter. Mais, vous savez que plusieurs de mes suppositions ce sont autrefois réalisées, et les événements semblent justifier un peu celles-ci. Quoiqu'il en soit, je ne fais nul doute que si vous aviez été bien servi comme vous deviez vous y attendre, tel événement dont j'ai à gémir aujourd'hui n'aurait pas eu lieu.

"Un décret impérial déclare le Maréchal Murat Prince, et le nomme Grand-Amiral. Un autre décret déclare M. Eugène Beauharnais Prince, et le nomme Archi-Chancelier d'Etat de l'Empire. Je vous envoie par une autre voie une gazette où sont ces deux décrets, ainsi qu'un troisième qui nomme soixante cordons rouges. Vous en recevrez la liste. L'Amiral Ganteaume, qui commande l'armée de Brest, est du nombre, ainsi que le Ministre de la Marine.



"S. M. l'Empereur a écrit au roi d'Angleterre pour lui faire des ouvertures de paix ; ce dernier a répondu en éludant. Toutes fois les espérances de paix restent encore.

"Je vous prie d'excuser ce brouillon. Je pars à l'instant pour Cherbourg, où je dois être embarqué en second sur la frégate La Canonnière, qui doit partir incessamment pour une destination qui me rapprochera un peu de vous. Je fais des vœux pour qu'elle m'en rapproche tout-à-fait.

"Toute la famille impériale se porte bien. Mde. la Princesse Borghèse seule ne jouit pas d'une parfaite santé. Monsieur Lucien est toujours, je crois, en Italie, le reste de la famille à Paris.

"Je ne sais désormais quels vœux je dois former pour vous ; je désire que vous soyez heureux, et je le serai moi-même de l'apprendre.

"J'ai l'honneur de vous réitérer les assurances de mon inviolable attachement et de mon respect.

"MEYRONET.

"P. S. Permettez, Monsieur, que je salue ici ces messieurs qui m'ont probablement oublié."

#### TRANSLATION.

"Paris, February 7th 1805.

"Sir—

"It is probable that when you receive this letter, you may have received some of the preceding ; and for this reason, I think it is unnecessary to remind you of what they contain. But the last events that have taken place, and of which I have to inform you, lead me to repeat how much I have been afflicted not to be intrusted with all your confidence in a circumstance where I should have made a use of it very dear to my soul. I fear much you have not met elsewhere arrangements such as you had supposed them.



I say only that *I fear*, without having any certain indication; and I should be in despair to make you withdraw your esteem from persons who should not have ceased to merit it; but you know that several of my suppositions have formerly been realized, and the events seem to justify my fears. However it may be, I have no doubt that if you had been as well treated as you had a right to expect, such a result as I now lament would not have taken place.

"An imperial decree declares Marshal Murat *Prince*, and styles him *Grand Admiral*. Another decree declares M. Eugene Beauharnais *Prince* and names him *Arch-Chancellor* of the state of the Empire. I send you by another way a newspaper in which these two decrees are inserted, as well as a third one, which names sixty crosses of the *Legion of Honor*. You will receive the list of them.

"Admiral Gonteaume, who commands the army of Brest, is one of them, as well as the Minister of Marine.

"His Majesty the Emperor has written to the King of England to make him propositions of peace. The latter has answered in an elusive manner, yet hopes of peace remain.

"I beg you to excuse this rough copy. I leave immediately for Cherbourg, where I must embark as second captain on the frigate *Canonniere*, which will sail immediately for a destination which will bring me nearer you. I could wish that it would bring me altogether to you.

"All the Imperial family is in good health,





the Princess Borghese excepted. M. Lucien is still, I believe, in Italy. The remainder of the family are in Paris.

“I do not know henceforth what wishes I must form for you. I desire that you may be happy, and shall be happy myself to learn it. I have the honor to present you the assurance of my inviolable affection and respect; and, sir, please permit me here to greet those gentlemen who have probably forgotten me.

MEYRONET.”

Mr. Robert Patterson is still in Paris. In spite of the “signs of the times” and the cold frosts of “Pluviose” he maintains his ground, collects facts, arranges them to suit, and writes interesting letters to his father. His next we give in full, on account of its general interest, and for the reason that it explains many things previously mentioned. He begins:—

“Paris, 16th February 1805.

“Dear Sir: My last was of the 29th ult., in original and duplicate, *via* Bordeaux. I enclose you the Holland tariffs for the last ten years, by which I would advise your examining all of your sales made during that period. If you find you have been overcharged in duties, as I suspect will be the case, send the accounts to me with the proper powers to enable me to act, and I have little doubt but I can compel them to *disgorge*. To proceed in this business with most effect, it would be well to inform me, as nearly as you can, at what time the different shipments



arrived at the Texel, that I may have recourse to the customs books, which I expect to accomplish with a few *douceurs*, to ascertain the exact sums paid in duties on the cargoes. If we fail in the attempt to recover in Holland, we should undoubtedly succeed in the United States by laying an attachment on their lands, provided we could prove by documents from the custom-house we had been charged more in duties than was paid.

"I have had no letters for a long time from McIlhenny and Glennie, so that I am at a loss to know with any degree of accuracy how our accounts stand. When I was leaving Holland, to prevent their being at any inconvenience during my absence, I directed them to write to S. & H. when they wanted remittances on our account, who would supply them. In conformity to those instructions they asked a remittance from S. & H. of £1970 sterling, which was remitted them on the 31st of last January.

"Bentalou has given me his obligation for the money lent him, with a kind of mortgage on his claim also, to secure us in the event of any unforeseen accident.

"The French tariff has just undergone a revision; The duty on coffee of the growth of their colonies is 75 francs per quintal, but of the growth of other countries 100 francs. It will be of importance to attend to this in making shipments to France.

"I am still without an answer from Rome. When it is received we shall go on to Madrid to ascertain if possible what will be required for the entire parcel.



In possession of that knowledge, I can see on my return to Holland whether a company can be formed there or elsewhere to carry the operation into execution.

“The Rochfort fleet, consisting of five sail of the line and four frigates, sailed about a month ago. It had four or five thousand men on board. India is generally believed to be its destination. It is said the Brest fleet with fifteen or twenty thousand troops is ready to embrace the first opportunity of getting to sea, which it is also believed is intended for India. If India should be the theatre of the active warfare between England and France, there must necessarily be thrown open a vast field for our commerce in that country; and as our interest would be much promoted by one of us being there, I am willing, in case of John's returning, and you think my exertions will be more useful there than in Europe, to take his place.

“I mentioned in my last a report stating that some bills lying over, which were said to be Jerome's, were taken up. I find since—at least have it from a tolerable source—that they were Pichon's and not Jerome's bills. I cannot learn that any of Jerome's are unpaid.

“I wish to engage your interest in behalf of Mr. O'Meally, a gentleman to whom I am under obligations, and for whom I have a sincere regard. He intends establishing himself at Bordeaux, with a view of transacting American commission business *solely*, and takes with him about \$100,000, a capital that will enable him to conduct his concerns with ease to



himself, and to afford every facility and advantage to his friends. It is said the Consul at Bordeaux has done so many improper things that there is little doubt but he will be removed. With a persuasion that this will be the case, his friends have advised his applying for the office. The application will be supported by many respectable characters in Virginia, by his Baltimore friends, among which may be reckoned Mr. E. Johnston and Mr. MacKreary, and by our Minister here, General Armstrong. If you were to speak to W. Nicholas and to General Smith, and request them to further his application, I think they could, together with his friends, secure the place for him. His character is unimpeachable, and no person can in any respect be better qualified to fill the office with dignity and honor to himself and the country than him. I am very sure you will never have any reason to regret anything you may do for him in this business.

"*T. L b v f x b e a t* informs me that he saw a person yesterday who mentioned to him that he had just heard *x u r R v c—b*, say that it was his determination to *x u b e p Q—r v a x e c b o f e a* the moment of his arrival, where he should remain till he *b r c h i o l x r i* his *p o m x* and *v l b b o r i* another which he should designate.

"The gentleman thinks from the decided manner in which he spoke, that he will certainly put his threats into execution. *L.* and myself are now of opinion *Q.* will only be safe by remaining where he is.





Be on your guard when you receive advices different from other quarters."

To this letter Mr. Robert Patterson does not place his signature. He evidently has become alarmed as to his own personal safety in Paris. The momentous words of the Emperor in cipher appear in a latter paragraph of the letter, and it would seem that the news came as he was about to close. It appears also that the *Key* to the cipher was already in the possession of his father in Baltimore, by some private conveyance. It did not come in the letter copied above. From the disguised words Robert plainly saw what the Emperor's intentions were, and was convinced of the extreme measures that would be resorted to on the arrival of Jerome in France. General Armstrong, it will be seen, was also of opinion that the Emperor would adhere to his intentions expressed in the words which were tremulously committed to cipher; and yet the young couple are preparing to embark, the preparations going clandestinely on—he for France and she for Holland; and the letter freighted with this alarming intelligence may not reach Baltimore before the embarkation and the sailing! What if it does? Will they abandon their mad policy?

The following *Key* will admit the reader to the mysteries of the two latter paragraphs in the letter just given, and perhaps be read with great curiosity:

A n, B r, C p, D b, E o, F s, G e, H u, I d, J v,  
K x, L a, M f, N k, O i, P w, Q j, R e, S y, T g,  
U h, V m, W z, X t, Y l, Z q.



Using the above Key the paragraphs in question will read—"General Armstrong informs me that he saw a person yesterday who mentioned to him that the *Emperor* says that it was his determination to *throw Jerome into prison* the moment of his arrival, where he should remain till he *repudiated his wife* and *married* another which he should designate."

"The gentleman thinks from the decided manner in which he spoke, that he will certainly put his threats into execution. General Armstrong and myself are now of opinion *Jerome* will only be safe by remaining where he is. Be on your guard when you receive advices different from other quarters."

It will be remembered that Mr. Robert Patterson, in a former letter, mentioned a speculation in the unappropriated lands of East Florida, in which he wished to interest Lucien Bonaparte for himself and Jerome; and that he had written to Lucien at Rome on the subject, and was waiting a reply before his departure for Madrid to put the scheme in operation. It does not appear that Lucien answered the letter, and becoming tired of waiting, he pens the following letter to his father, which we give in full, with its enclosures:

"Paris, 5th March 1805.

"Dear Sir—The enclosed is a paragraph that came out yesterday in the *Moniteur*, and is to-day inserted in all the other papers. The arrival of the frigate *Le President* was scarcely announced when this paragraph appeared, which I fear has been occasioned by something or other that our friend has written by thi-



vessel; but whatever may have been the cause, you must agree with me, that our friend ought no longer to think of returning.

"I expect to return to Holland in the course of four or five weeks. The speculation I mentioned to you in several of my letters has been laid aside, at least for the present, which will afford you an opportunity of giving me your ideas respecting it.

"The bills that are to be drawn by our Minister on the Treasury of the United States, are not yet issued, and I fear I shall not be able to do anything in them either, as I shall probably be obliged to return to Amsterdam before they are drawn.

Yours very affectionately,

ROBERT PATTERSON."

This letter was, on the 11th of March, forwarded for America in the ship *Robereus*, with the annexed enclosures:—

PARIS, 15 *ventose*.

"Par un acte du 11 *ventose*, defense est faite à tous officiers de l'état civil de l'Empire, de recevoir sur leurs registres la transcription de l'acte de célébration d'un prétendu mariage que M. Jérôme Bonaparte auroit contracté en pays étranger, en âge de minorité, sans le consentement de sa mère, et sans publication préalable dans le lieu de son domicile.

(*Journal officiel.*)

"From and after the 11th of the present month, all the civil officers of the Empire, are forbidden to suffer the transcription on their registers, of the certificate of a pretended marriage which Mr. Jerome Bonaparte may have contracted in a foreign country, without the consent of his mother, and without the banns thereof being previously published in the place of his abode.

(*Moniteur.*)"



Still in Paris, and perhaps indulging in gloomy anticipations on account of the unfavorable turn things have taken, Mr. Patterson again writes a short letter to his father, from which we gather that all his hopes of a reconciliation of the Emperor to his sister's marriage, have fled for ever, and left behind the end of diplomacy upon the subject. He begins:—

“Paris, March 9th 1805.

Dear Sir—

I wrote you *via* Bordeaux and Nantz on the 5th inst. enclosing a paragraph which appeared in the different newspapers about that time. *D—s e h t u x a s a e v r l a p x e g e v e x e M—r. O m f u r p e h y i d e m e b x h a l v x v a e a y s d r o a t f r a x d l g n. B r c e b x f l s f x u l x Y—. p l f l b b r f x r i l x v o y l a l a i u r o f a i p g e a m o a r i v a x u r x u e y r x u r b r.*”

To this letter, in the handwriting of Mr. Robert Patterson, he neither affixes his signature nor his initials, but closes by the words “I am, &c.” On the cover is the direction, “William Patterson, Esquire, Baltimore. Per the Charleston Packet *via* Philadelphia.”

Using the key already given, the paragraph in cipher reads thus: “Betsy ought by no means to come to France. If she were, I think she would be fortunate in only being sent back. Report says that Lucien was arrested at Milan, and he is now confined in the thole there.”

In two days, however, after this alarming intelligence had been committed to paper, Jerome and his





wife were on the deep in spite of all warning! The ship's "gallant prow" was pressing on towards Europe, inspiring Jerome with the soul-stirring sentiment, "Land of my birth, I shall greet thee again." Betsy, if we may credit the language of the strange writer from Lille, had "drawn a prize which most of her sex covet," yet its possession was, we imagine, already giving her sorrow. She was bidding farewell to her native land and to the companions of her youth, in a manner that made secrecy necessary in order to her safety; for British cruisers in American waters were bent on the capture of her husband. She had exchanged the comforts of an affluent home in America for the privations of a long period of anxiety, pain and sorrow, in a strange land.

On the morning of the 11th of March 1805, ere gray twilight had completely yielded to the light of day, or the dragon of night fairly departed, the young couple stood on a wharf in Baltimore. The land secretly and tearfully gave up its charge, and the ship moved off; she passed the fortifications in the river, and not a ripple was heard; she passed the capes of the Chesapeake, and the sea, sadly smiling, received the precious sail!

Perhaps she passed in mid-ocean, within hailing distance, the ship which bore the letter in cipher to Betsy! Both, however, were unconscious of its existence, and they ploughed along on the "highway of nations" toward their respective destinations. The ship bearing the letter reached America, and the good ship *Erin*, bearing the young couple, reached Spain, and there for the present we leave them.



As previously stated, the young couple sailed on the 11th of March; and as quietly as the circumstances of the embarkation and sailing were conducted, General Tuerreau, the French Minister in Washington, in spite of bad roads and rickety stage-coaches, had the news on the 13th. He writes to Mr. Patterson in Baltimore, and we copy his original in full:—

“Washington City, March 13th 1805.

“Sir—About four or five days ago, I did myself the honor to write to M. Jerome Bonaparte, entreating the favor of him to offer you my sincere thanks for the wine you gave Mr. Carriere to be sent to me. I understand that M. Bonaparte left Baltimore on Sunday last; and being uncertain of his having received my letter before his departure, I, with pleasure, tender you my acknowledgments for the said wine.

“I avail myself of this opportunity to inquire of you, sir, whether M. Jerome Bonaparte had left his four carriage horses with you, and whether he begged you to dispose of them. I should in this case be willing to purchase them of you, sir; and take it as a favor would you be so kind as to acquaint me with your intentions.

“I have the honor to be, sir, with regard,

“Your most obedient servant,

“TUERREAU,

“French Minister.

“Mr. Patterson.”

This letter was written in English, and signed by



the Minister with his own hand. We have given a verbatim copy.

On Sunday the 17th of March 1804, Mr. Patterson writes his reply to the above, and we give below a copy of his letter, word for word:—

“Baltimore, 17th March 1805.

“Sir—I had the pleasure of receiving the letter you were pleased to address me of the 13th current, and was happy that the two cases claret delivered Mr. Carriere for your use have met your approbation. I would not have taken the liberty of offering them in the manner I did to Mr. Carriere had he been able to procure the kind he wanted by purchase; but knowing there was none of that quality for sale, induced me to spare you a part of what I had imported for my own use; and having still more than a sufficient supply for my own purposes, should you, on trial, like the quality of the wine, I shall be happy to furnish you with two cases more.

“Mr. Bonaparte left instructions with me not to dispose of his horses until I heard from him after his arrival in Europe. Of course it is out of my power at present to make you an offer of them on any terms; otherwise, it would have afforded me much pleasure to have given them to you in preference to other applicants, and more especially as the horses are very fine and valuable.

“Mr. Bonaparte got under way from our harbor at 8 o'clock in the morning of Monday last, and went to sea the next morning at 9 o'clock, with a remarkably fine wind which lasted for three days; so that I hope



and pray he will reach his port of destination in safety. I am concerned however to find that a British sloop of war sailed from the harbor of New York last Sunday morning, said to be bound for Bermuda; but I have little doubts her real intentions were to intercept the vessel in which Mr. Bonaparte was embarked. It was not unknown to Mr. Bonaparte and the master of the vessel, that such a British vessel lay at New New York, and the probability of her coming out to try to intercept them. They were therefore on their guard; and as the vessel in which they embarked was only in a set of ballast, and reputed one of the fastest sailers belonging to our port, there is little or no danger of his going clear.

“I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir,

“Your most humble servant,

“WILLIAM PATTERSON.

“His Excellency General Tuerreau, Washington.”

On Jerome's second day at sea, General Rewbell of Paris writes him a letter which he never received. It also may have passed him in mid-ocean, and reached America about the time he landed in Spain. We allow the general to speak for himself in his own language:

“Paris, le 24 Ventose, an 13.

“Monsieur: J'ai eu l'honneur de vous écrire, et de vous témoigner combien j'avais été affligé en apprenant par Meyronet tous les détails de votre naufrage; une lettre que je viens de recevoir de Mr. Pascault en me les confirmant, m'apprend en outre que vous êtes malade. Personne, Monsieur, ne s'intéresse plus vivement à vous que moi, et cette dernière nouvelle me causa un chagrin réel. Je passerai ce matin chez M. Patter-





son pour le prier de vous faire parvenir cette lettre. J'espère qu'il aura des choses plus consolantes à me dire sur l'état de votre santé.

"Meyronet est parti ; je désire qu'il ait été vous rejoindre ; c'est un homme sur lequel vous pouvez compter, et qui vous est tout dévoué.

"S. M. l'Impératrice a fait obtenir à Monsieur de Maupertuis le consulat de Rotterdam ; l'on assure que cette place vaut dans ce moment passé cent mille francs. Je me plais à croire que M. de Maupertuis vous est aussi attaché que Meyronet. Je voudrais vous parler avec la confiance que je vous dois, et qu'on ne peut s'empêcher d'avoir pour un cœur comme le vôtre ; mais cela devient impossible dans les circonstances actuelles.

"Puissé-je avoir l'honneur de vous faire bientôt ma cour ! Vous n'êtes pas fait pour vieillir en Amérique. Malgré tout ce qui se passe Mde. R. espère avoir l'avantage de voir Madame J. B. dans ce pays-ci. Je me joins à celle en pensées et en désirs. Veuillez nous rappeler à son souvenir, et croire, Monsieur, que je ne cesserai en aucunes occasions de ma vie de vous être attaché avec la plus tendre et la plus respectueuse reconnaissance.

"Votre tout dévoué serviteur,

"REWBELL."

#### TRANSLATION.

"Paris, March 14th 1805.

"Sir : I have had the honor to write to you and to testify how much I have been afflicted on learning from Meyronet all the particulars of your shipwreck. I have just received a letter from M. Pascault confirming these reports, and informing me also that you have been sick. No one, sir, takes more interest in your welfare than I, and this last news has caused me a great deal of real sorrow. I will go this morn-



ing to Mr. Patterson to request him to send you this letter. I hope he will have something more satisfactory to tell me concerning the state of your health.

"Meyronet is gone. I wish he would rejoin you. He is a man on whom you can depend, and he is entirely devoted to you.

"Her Majesty the Empress has obtained the consulship of Rotterdam for M. de Maupertuis. People say this situation is now worth more than a hundred thousand francs a year.

"I am happy in believing that M. de Maupertuis is as much devoted to you as Meyronet. I would like to speak to you with the confidence which I owe you, and which it is impossible not to have for a heart like yours; but this becomes impossible in the present circumstances. I hope I shall soon have the honor to pay you my homage. You are not made to grow old in America. In spite of what is taking place, Mrs. Rewbell hopes to have the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Bonaparte in this country. I join with her in thoughts and desires. Be kind enough to remember us, and believe, sir, I will never cease on any occasion of my life to be devoted to you with the most tender and the most respectful gratefulness. Your all-devoted servant,  
REWELL."

We close this chapter by giving two extracts from letters written to Mr. Patterson in Baltimore by Jonathan Jones of Bordeaux. Under date of 24th February 1805 he writes: "I have lately forwarded you several letters *via* New York, without the least observation made thereon, though particularly recom-



mended by me to the captain's care, and as I had some responsibility therein, beg you to be so obliging as to advise me in course if such letters get safe to hand. They went by the brig Georgia (*unfortunately lost*) that sailed the 24th of January from Bordeaux, and was driven ashore at the entrance of the river. The captain had two bags of letters, one of which was saved that I had sealed up, and the bag was sent on by the brig New York. You had better send your orders to some confidential friend at New York to detain yours, for many of the letters were opened on account of their being wet with sea-water."

On the 17th of March he writes again: "Here enclosed you will please receive two letters that came to hand two days since with a desire to send both by some occasion, as well as the Gazette herewith, that gives me infinite pain from the warm friendship I take in all that interests you."

The Bordeaux Gazette, to which this last paragraph refers, contained the article of the "13th Ventose," relating to "the pretended marriage" of Jerome, which "he may have contracted in a foreign country."



## CHAPTER VII.

Young couple on the sea!—Robert Patterson in Paris—General Rewbell—The Erin safe—Sad news in cipher—Storms of wit—Deception “all the go”—Nineteen days at sea—Blue hills of Portugal—Letter from Bonaparte—“Sea-sick never kills nobody”—Foreign gossip—Letters in cipher—The cipher changed—Gossip in Boston—The “Columbian Centinel” irate—The Bonapartes lampooned—Letters of Dacres published—Philadelphia and the *Moniteur*—Bentalou and Skip with—Mr. Livingston’s treaty—“Bills”—Another letter from Lille—Affairs in Holland—Mr. *Schimmelpenninck*—Madame Bonaparte not allowed to land in Holland—Sylvanus Bourne pleads her cause—She is placed under guns—Mr. Bourne’s letter—Gossip in London—Madame Bonaparte goes there—Jerome and Le Camus at Genoa.

No news has yet arrived from the young couple on the sea. Another letter from the bride’s brother has probably passed them on its voyage to America. Mr. Patterson still in Paris, writes a letter, mostly of a business character, to his father, and we copy from it the following paragraphs.

Dating Paris, March 17, 1805, he says,

“Dear Sir:—My last was of the 9th inst., and I am still without any of your letters.

“It is my intention to set out in the course of two or three days for Nantz and Bordeaux, from there to Marseilles, then to Lyons, and return to Holland, without passing this place again. I shall probably be in Amsterdam in the course of six weeks, perhaps sooner. When Bentalou gets his bills, he will transmit





them to me to be forwarded to you, on his doing which I will return him his obligation; and will let him have something more on account of them.

“Mr. Skipwith has some idea of going himself to the United States with his bills; but if he does not, which is by far the most probable, he will send them to you for collection. I mentioned to you his having expressed a wish to have his commissions, in the event of his sending his bills to you, paid to him here at the rate of 108 sous per dollar, which is par, twelve months after he hands me the bills. As it will be the means of your getting your money home without the loss that has latterly attended the drawing in Europe, it would certainly be an advantageous arrangement for us; and if he thinks seriously of the plan, I shall have no hesitation in entering into it on the terms I have stated, with this proviso, that the money is only to be paid after we know of the bills being paid in the United States. His commissions amount to about \$80,000.

“The enclosed letter is from General Rewbell. I do not see the least reason to change the opinion given you before, that the only chance left to Jerome to bring his affair to a fortunate issue, is by his remaining in the United States. If he were to come out I suspect he would be very far from finding a cordial reception. I shall write you more particularly and fully from Bordeaux.”

The reader will discover that General Rewbell's letter came as an enclosure in Mr. Patterson's letter



just quoted, but it was published in the last chapter, in the order of time.

Fearing that ladies may grow tired of the historical and commercial part of the correspondence, we will lay before them something perhaps more suited to their tastes. From Mr. Patterson, now in Bordeaux, we have another cipher letter, intended as a warning to the young couple, now far out on the trackless ocean, in sight of nothing save billow and sky. This letter, on its way to Baltimore, will pass them nearer the rock-bound coasts of Europe than mid-ocean, but will remain the custodian of its dreadful secrets; and the unconscious vessels will plough on as the thoughtless messengers of grief.

The young couple are safe on the bosom of ocean. The noble Erin has gallantly carried her unusual freight, and auspicious winds will soon bring her in sight of land.

But to return to Mr. Patterson's letter. Dating "Bordeaux, 31st March 1805," he writes to his father under the impression that Jerome and his wife are still in Baltimore:—

"Dear sir," writes he in original and duplicate, "I had the pleasure of writing you on the 17th inst. from Paris, enclosing you a letter from General Rewbell for Jerome, which was forwarded from here by a schooner bound to Baltimore.

"I had thought for a long time that the Emperor's being dissatisfied with Jerome's marriage proceeded merely from the pique of the moment, which I hoped he would soon have got over; but from what General



Armstrong has been able to learn, and by what I have heard from other quarters, it seems that this uncconciliatory disposition of the Emperor is kept alive and *meuvraxri* by the *oaxbathrf* of a *cllx* of the *mlvoys*. The *R—ff* and the *cbog-rffrf*. *Y—*, and *Ryofl* are not *mljebldysiofcefri xeplbifQ—*. His *dbexurbf*, with the exception of *Y—a*, take probably but little *vaxrb rfx* in his *drulym*. The mother, I believe, is really desirous of appeasing the Emperor and to recognise the marriage. I am afraid however that her good dispositions will be of no avail, as she is not supposed to have much influence over him. *M—*, you know, has a handsome appointment, and the Empress, who is his *relation*, has made him several presents as testimonies of her regard. He shows all Jerome's letters to the Empress, and one or two of them he mentions as having sent to the Emperor. He is not considered a man that can be depended upon, but one who will adhere to his friend whilst it is convenient. Though we cannot confide in him, it is unnecessary to discover our mistrust of him.

"If Jerome were to arrive he would undoubtedly be *geamori*, and till he should *gercys* with whatever the *R—* might direct; and if his wife should come out, and I must repeat, I should consider her fortunate in *eays* being *fraxdlgn* to the United States. He may possibly, on showing a reluctance to return, be *demanded of the American government* as an officer in the Navy, which demand could scarcely be complied with if he chooses to throw up his commission. There is not much to be apprehended on



the score of *f h c c y o r f*. Their *e b o i r* is a sufficient guarantee against any inconvenience of that nature. They have been informed of the consequences that might attend *d o y y f b r x h b a o a t e b e x r f x r i*. It might be a disadvantage for your *a l v r* to *l c e r l b e a l a s* of them. The reports of the *l f f l f f o a l x o e a* or *g e a m v a r v r a x* of Y—A are not confirmed, and are most probably unfounded. The bare circumstance, however, of their being considered possible shows a *y l v r a x l d y r i r e b l j o x s* of *v e b l y f*."

To this letter Mr. Patterson adds his initials only. The paragraphs in cipher read thus—"This unconciliatory disposition is kept alive and *fomented* by the *intrigues* of a *part* of the *family*. The *Empress*, and the *princesses*; *Lucien* and *Elisa*, are not *favorably disposed towards Jerome*. His *brothers*, with the exception of *Lucien*, take probably but little *interest* in his *behalf*."

"If Jerome were to arrive, he would undoubtedly be *confined*, and till he should *comply* with whatever the *Emperor* might direct; and if his wife should come out, I must repeat, I should consider her fortunate in *only being sent back* to the United States."

"They have been informed of the consequences that might attend *bills returning protested*. It might be a disadvantage for your *name* to *appear on any* of them. The reports of the *assassination* or *confinement* of *Lucien* are not confirmed. The bare circumstance however of their being considered possible shows a *lamentable depravity of morals*."

"M—," appearing in the preceding letter, refers to





*Maupertuis* the French Consul at Rotterdam; and it is somewhat singular that Mr. Patterson always disguises his name in the correspondence. He finds that *Maupertuis* is "not considered a man that can be depended upon," and perhaps the 3000 francs loaned him as part of his out-fit for Rotterdam, have gone where the "woodbine twineth." In this letter, as given above, the full face of deception is unmasked, even that of *Lucien* also, who in the beginning of diplomacy upon this subject was described as "a firm and decided character. On all occasions, he thinks and acts independently. On this one he nobly and candidly uttered *what he thought*." Did he?

Down to this time, March 31st, the reader will remember that the young couple have been *nineteen* days on the sea, and no accounts of their voyage appear. By this time they should be in sight of the calm blue hills on the shore of Portugal. They may have partaken of "fresh provisions" at St. Croix de Teneriffe, if the good ship *Erin* has been favored. If she has, or even has not been favored, what a fame will she earn for herself! It will eclipse that of the fairest of the argosies that swarmed the ancient ocean, or flitted before the imagination of the wildest poet. She will be classed among the real heroines of the white-bannered battalions of the sea, and the canvas will record her precious memory.

Before the appearance on the path of gossip, that unlicensed peddler of paragraphs, we will favor the lady, into whose hands this book may come, with the reading of the first letter from the young couple, written by Jerome's own hand, and in his own Eng-



lish. It was directed to "Mr. William Patterson, Baltimore," in the handwriting of the young Madame Bonaparte herself, and we give below a *verbatim* copy.

"On Board of the Erin,  
the 2d April 1805.

"I have the pleasure of writing to you, dear father, from the arbous of Lisbon where we arrive this morning the 21st day of our departure from Cape Henry. We shall be obliged to perform a quarantine of 16 days, but I have already found the way for not doing it, and in three days I shall be ready to proceed on my Long, monotonne, and fatiguing journey. My feelings for you, my second mother, and all your good family are very well known to you, and it is easier for me to feel them than to express them. I have left one of my family and will be soon among the other, But the pleasure and the satisfaction of being in my first will never make me forgot my second.

"My dear wife has fortunately supported the fatigues of our voyage perfectly well. She has been very sick, but you know as well as any body that sea-sick never has killed no body.

"I pray you, dear father, to do not forget me near my friends, and particularly General and Mrs. Smith and family, Naney, Dallas, and Dr. McHenry, and remember that you solemnly promised me to never show my letters, and to burn them after having read it.  
B."

This letter is signed B. *only*; and in the handwriting of Mr. Patterson, father of Madame Bona-



parte, it is endorsed, "*Bonaparte, Lisbon, April 1805—received 15th May.*"

From Jerome's letter, it will be seen that the ship, with himself and wife, arrived at Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal, on the 2d of April 1805. On the 14th, the Lisbon papers had it that "Jerome Bonaparte, after having been *five* days under quarantine, landed and received visits from the Spanish ambassador, and others of the corps diplomatique in friendship with France."

On the 2d of May, it was published at Greenock that "a Lisbon mail arrived on Thursday per the Walsingham packet. Jerome Bonaparte had set out for France, and his lady and her brother by sea for Amsterdam." This was William Patterson, Jun. Jerome set out for the city of Artesian wells, and the lair of the lion which he must soon encounter; but his wife, delicate, fatigued, and dishonored, bids a final farewell to her husband at Lisbon, and that hour of parting becomes also the hour of a final forsaking, and she must finish her journeyings on earth *alone*.

Still in Bordeaux, Mr. Robert Patterson, seriously operated upon by fear from some quarter, writes the following letter to his father, even disguising in cipher the initials of his name; and then changing the cipher itself! We copy the letter in full:—

"Bordeaux, 11th April 1805.

"Dear Sir—The following is an extract of a letter I received from B——u by yesterday's post: '*I have been told, and assured that the information may be relied on as coming from a correct source, that x u r*



vexurlulf floi xulx lf fur brgro-  
 jri l.yrxxrl mbev Q—r xrycoat urb  
 xulx mo'aroat uof vlbboltr fevhgu  
 ioflccbejri ur plf poyycoat xe uljr  
 vx ioffeyjri fur yeafraxri xexur  
 ylxr chdyoglxoea.'

"I do not know how he gets his information, but as he sometimes gives credit to reports without considering them sufficiently, I think it highly probable that what he states will prove unfounded. B. C.

"N. B. I will write you in the following cipher when there is anything material to communicate:—

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z  
 g k n p s u a d r v z b w h y m x e j l o i t f q l"

B—u, in the above letter, stands for Bentalou; and the extract from his letter, using the former Key, reads thus: "I have been told and assured the information may be relied on as coming from a correct source that *the mother* has said that, as she received a letter from Jerome telling her that, finding his marriage so much disapproved, he was willing to have it dissolved, she consented to the late publication."

On reference to the first *Key* to cipher, in a former part of this book, the reader will discover that the initials B. C., appended to the above letter, represent R. P., or Robert Patterson.

This is the last letter Mr. Patterson writes from Bordeaux. Soon after the writing, he appears to have departed for Paris without hearing of the arrival of the young couple, and William Patterson Junior, his brother, in Portugal. For the present we leave





Jerome on the overland route from Lisbon to Paris, which he probably took, and Mr. Patterson and his sister in the *Erin*, Captain Stephenson, on their voyage to Amsterdam; and we will hear no more of them until they arrive at their respective destinations.

The paragraph from Mr. Bentalou's letter addressed to Mr. Robert Patterson, and by him transmitted in cipher to his father in Baltimore, fully unmasks the mother of Jerome also, and the demon of deception, fully denuded, stands forth as the ruling genius of the Bonaparte family.

Leaving affairs in Europe to the control of circumstances, the kind reader will please return with us to America, and we will land in Boston, where we breathe a pure atmosphere among real people.

The editor of the "*Columbian Centinel*," published in that city, becoming irate upon the subject, handles the Bonapartes in the following careless manner. Referring to the letter of M. Dacres to Jerome, he says in his issue of the 3d of April 1805:—

"The real character of man may perhaps be more justly appreciated by his private sentiments and actions than by his public; in the former, he is less prepared and more off his guard; he has fewer motives for disguising or checking the emotions of his heart; his nature, if we may be allowed the expression, is more undressed than in public, where the conviction that all eyes are fixed upon him, that every feature, and look, and gesture is weighed and watched, gives to his manners a constrained and studied air, and makes him more the child of art than of nature.



“This letter affords more insight into the character of Bonaparte than we could gain from his public actions; it contains the expression of his undisguised sentiments and feelings in private and in confidence. What a cold unfeeling heart! How severe, unbending, and unforgiving! occupied solely by ambition and the love of power, valuing only the ties of family and blood, as they contribute to the gratification of his master passion, and the accomplishment of his ambitions desires! ‘Whatever is foreign to the accomplishment of his great designs, seems to him treason against *his* high destiny,’ says M. Dacres, and tells his *Brother* that he knows him better than he does. ‘I will receive Jerome, if, leaving in America the *young person* in question (his innocent and virtuous wife), he shall come hither to associate himself to my fortune.’ ‘Consider,’ says the Minister to M. Jerome, ‘that you have as yet done nothing for *him*.’ Of natural affection, the Minister candidly confesses that he is utterly devoid. ‘In vain, availing myself of the freedom which the First Consul permits in domestic privacy, did I wish to make the voice of natural affection be heard. I became sensible from his conversation, *that he neither felt*, nor was liable to feel, any pliancy of that kind.’ A stranger, unacquainted with the character of Bonaparte, might be led to suspect, upon hearing his repugnance to the marriage entered into by his brother, that that brother had married a lady of low origin, and that she formed a distressing contrast to other marriages that had been entered into by the family—a contrast indeed! the contrast which virtue affords to vice! Is it possible



that Bonaparte could have been blinded to this truth, that every rebuke he uttered against his brother was ten times more applicable to himself? to himself who evinced the most disgusting indelicacy and immorality in the union he had formed, a union in which every feeling most congenial to the heart was violated, and which was entered into for the sole purpose of gratifying his thirst of ambition and dominion. And Joseph Bonaparte! was his wife of superior rank and virtue to the wife of Jerome? Lucien appears to be under the same ban and anathema as Jerome! He has been banished from France because he has contracted connections 'which have been found incompatible with his abode in France.' But of Lucien, *the Emperor*, if we may form a judgment from the letter of the Minister of Marine, stands in some awe. He certainly is indebted in a great degree to him for his present pre-eminence and power. This high sense of family pride which must not be sullied by contact and commixture with plebeian blood, would scarcely been pardonable in the real descendants of Charlemagne. But in a little low Corsican, born we know not of whom, and whose name and family were never heard of until within these ten years, it is perfectly contemptible and ridiculous. To demonstrate to our readers the folly of the objections which the Emperor BUONAPARTE has made to the alliance formed by his brother JEROME, in *America*, we present the following authentic sketch of the genealogy of the BUONAPARTE family, which we deem it our duty to *blazon* and set forth for the entertainment and information of our readers—



Mrs. RANIOGLINI, of Basle,  
married M. RANIOGLINI; and, secondly,  
M. FESCH. She had by these marriages

LETITIA RANIOGLINI,  
and M. Fesch, now Cardinal Fesch.

LETITIA RANIOGLINI married CARLO BONAPARTE,  
a Recorder of a petty  
Tribunal of *Ajaccio*.

Letitia Bonaparte was afterwards *mistress* of COUNT  
MARBŒUF, Governor of *Corsica*.

Her children by CARLO BONAPARTE and COUNT  
MARBŒUF are—His Imperial Highness,

JOSEPH BONAPARTE, who married  
Her Imperial Highness, M. M. CLARY, daughter of a  
ship-broker at *Marseilles*.

His Imperial Majesty,  
NAPOLEON BONAPARTE,  
who married Madame de Beauharnais, first the wife  
of Count Beauharnais, and afterwards the *mistress*  
of BARRAS.

CITIZEN LUCIEN BONAPARTE.

He was first an ABBE. In 1793 he was employed  
in the wagon service of the Army of *Provence*, at  
£100 a year. His first wife was a chambermaid in  
the tavern of one *Maximin*, near *Toulon*. She died  
at Neuilly in 1797, from bad treatment.

His second wife is Madame Jauberthou, the di-  
vorced wife of an exchange broker,  
of *Paris*.

She was his *mistress* for a year, and then he mar-  
ried her.





His Royal Highness,

LOUIS BONAPARTE,

Married Mademoiselle BEAUHARNAIS, daughter of Her *Imperial Majesty* by her first husband.

CITIZEN JEROME BONAPARTE

Married MISS PATTERSON, *a very respectable and beautiful young lady of Baltimore.*

Her Imperial Highness,

PRINCESS ELISA,

the sister of his *Imperial Majesty*, married at *Marseilles*, BACCIOCHI, son of a waiter at a coffee-house, and marker at a billiard-table at *Aix-la-Chapelle* and *Spa*, in 1793; the son carried on a small trade in *Cotton* in *Switzerland*.

Her Imperial Highness,

PRINCESS MATILDA BONAPARTE, married General MURAT, son of an ostler at an Inn, three miles from *Cubors*, in *Quercy*. MURAT, in 1793, proposed to change his name to MARAT.

Her Imperial Highness

PRINCESS PAULINA BORGHESE, married first General Leclerc, who was the son of a *wool dealer*, at *Pontoise*. He purchased wool from the country people, and resold it at *Paris*, to the upholsterers. His mother, Madame Leclerc, was a retail dealer in corn and flour. Her brother had been sentenced to be hanged for robbery."

It was not until early in the spring of 1805 the letters of M. Daeres found their way into the newspapers of the United States. At this time they were



generally published by the few journals then existing in the country; but we find that the "National Intelligencer" in Washington, as early as February 11th, publishes the letter to Pichon, and for it that paper credits the London Morning Chronicle, but does not give the date of the issue. We do not find that the Baltimore papers published these letters at any time, but remained comparatively silent upon the whole subject.

On the 3d of May it was published in Philadelphia that "the report of a decree annulling the marriage of Jerome Bonaparte has been also deemed a fiction in this country. We, however, find in the *Moniteur* of the 1st of March the official document to that effect. It differs from that we have already published in the concluding words which are, *without the consent of his mother, and without the banns thereof being published in the place of his abode.*"

On the 20th of April we find Mr. Robert Patterson again in Paris. He addresses a business letter in triplicate to Messrs. William Patterson & Sons, Baltimore, and says he wrote them a letter from Bordeaux the 2d of April, "stating the particulars of the arrangement I had entered into with Mr. Skipwith respecting the bills he is to receive." This letter does not appear in hand, and he goes on to say, "On my arrival here the day before yesterday I was very much astonished at Mr. Bentalou telling me that Skipwith had expressed some regret at the contract he had made, and that he feared very much he wished to be off. I immediately called on him, determined



to have such explanations as would prevent any future misunderstandings; but finding very soon from the tenor of his conversation, and from the shuffling disposition he discovered, that it would be difficult if not impossible to compel him to adhere to his agreement; and considering also the danger of having anything to do with a person on whose word we find not the smallest reliance can be placed, I consented to acquit him of his engagement and to annul the contract. Bentalou is very much mortified at Skipwith's trifling conduct. He suggested the arrangement, and from motives of friendship towards him forwarded the negotiation. The disappointment is the more aggravating, as I have reason to suspect I was undermined in the business by a person from whom a very different conduct ought to have been expected. I allude to Js. Per——s."

After writing at length on the subject of commercial affairs in such a manner as to make very dry reading for the present generation of merchants, Mr. Patterson concludes: "Mr. Bentalou requests you will send him a pipe of Madeira wine of first quality. It can be sent either to Nantz or Bordeaux. He wishes it to be cased." This looks very much like "sending coals to New Castle."

Without any previous notice of his departure from Paris, we find Mr. Patterson in Amsterdam on the 10th of May.

Dating "Amsterdam, May 10th 1805," he writes to his father: "Enclosed you will find a bill on the Treasury of the United States, drawn by General



Armstrong in favor of Paul Bentalou, and endorsed to you, for 170,378 francs 58 centimes. The letter of advice which you have also enclosed and the bill are dated on the 6th inst. You will please to recollect I have purchased \$20,000 of this bill from Mr. B., for which I am to pay him at the rate others are sold of the same description. The balance you will hold subject to his orders. You know I have already given Mr. B. \$4000 as part of the purchase-money for the \$20,000. I shall remit him \$10,000 or \$12,000 more in the course of a day or two, and the balance when we have a precedent to establish the discount I am to be allowed. Mr. Bentalou informs me the bills are to be paid at the Treasury at the rate of one dollar per *five francs and three thousand three hundred and thirty-three ten-thousandths* of a franc.

“The following is an extract of Bentalou’s letter, dated the 7th of May: ‘As the Ministers have agreed to serve first all the claimants present, it follows that we will, I fear, have to wait some time longer before those represented by powers of attorney are granted, and have gone through not only the examination of these powers; but perhaps more difficulties arising in their progress between the Ministers will have to undergo long discussions. It appears they have agreed that the bills are to be issued in the name and for the sole benefit of the original claimant, therefore not negotiable; and hence the necessity of the agents, in order to secure their due, to send these bills to a third person; and I have the pleasure to add that Mr.





Skipwith has already informed me that since he is not allowed to deduct here his commissions from each claim that he represents, he means to comply with his former engagements agreed upon with you, and of course will send all his bills to your house. If this turns out to be the case, as I really believe it will, we must discard our suspicion of any collusion with our New England friend.

"When I have anything from Skipwith respecting a renewal of our engagement, you shall be informed. It will then be sufficient time for you to make your arrangements.

"The person sent to the Texel writes that public notice was given there in handbills that any person having communication with the ship *Erin*, Captain Stephenson, would incur a severe penalty. He mentions also that he has reason to believe that the ship arrived in the Texel roads last Wednesday, but was ordered off immediately; and he adds that there is a report of her being in the Vlieland, a place about thirty miles to the northward of the Texel. He sent a letter of mine for William to that place. They will no doubt proceed to Embden."

To this letter Mr. Patterson signs his name in full, as he invariably did when without the boundaries of France. As so much has been written by Mr. Patterson on the subject of "bills to be drawn by our Minister," we give below a letter from General Armstrong transmitting a "bill," and also a copy of one of the bills in question:—



“Paris, May 6, 1805.

“Sir—I have this day drawn on you in favor of Paul Bentalou, in pursuance of a liquidation by the government of France, in this case provided by the Convention between the United States and France of the 30th April 1803, the 10th of Floreal, year 11, for one hundred and seventy thousand three hundred and seventy-eight francs fifty-eight centimes.

“JOHN ARMSTRONG,

“Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

“To the Treasurer of the United States, Washington.”

We cannot give a copy of the bill which was drawn as above, but we have one similar.

“No. 559.

“Exchange for 3321 francs and four centimes at 5 francs  $\frac{3333}{10000}$  per dollar, Paris Aug. 16, 1805. Pay ninety days after sight this my first of exchange, 2d and 3d of same tenor and date unpaid, to the order of George Ellis, surviving partner of the house of Geo. Short & Thos. Ellis, in pursuance of a liquidation by the government of France, in this case provided by the convention between the United States and France of the 30th April 1803—the 10th of Floreal, year 11, three thousand three hundred and twenty-one francs and four centimes. Per advice from the undersigned Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

“To the Treasurer of the United States, Washington.”

The treaty of 30th April 1803 was concluded by Mr. Livingston for the purchase of Louisiana.



If ladies will pardon this digression from the subject of the marriage into the channels of business, in which gentlemen only may take an interest, we will place before them a short letter from Mr. Robert Patterson, written from Amsterdam to his father, announcing the arrival of Madame Bonaparte's vessel at the Texel. The Texel is a small island in the North Sea opposite the inland waters of Holland upon which the city of Amsterdam is situated. Its location will be seen on reference to a map of Europe.

Dating Amsterdam, May 11th 1805, Mr. Patterson says:—"I learn from the Texel the arrival of the Erin. The pilot who brought her in is put in the guard-ship, and will in all probability be punished. The person who is at the Texel had not at the time he wrote succeeded in putting my letter on board, but expected to be able to do it. From the circumstance of their prohibiting the pilots from bringing in the vessel, I am in hopes their object is merely to prevent their landing, and that they will be permitted to depart again. Yours affectionately."

To this letter Mr. Patterson does not sign his name; but addresses it to Messrs. Wm. Patterson & Sons, Baltimore.

Whilst we are waiting for more news from the Texel, we will open another letter that comes from a different direction and goes in a different one, quite contrary to the location of the person to whom it is addressed; but the writer has already been admitted into our circle of correspondents, and we will give him a hearing in order. Before we open the letter,



let us take particular notice of the directions on its envelope. Just look ! It is headed by large *red letters* in print.

SHIP LILLE.

Then comes the writing—

“ A Madame.

Madame Jerome Bonaparte.

Baltimore,  
Maryland.

In Amerique.”

We will now break the great seal of wax, and read—

“ Lille, May 29th 1805.

“ Madame—

“ It was with the most lively solicitude that I read in the Official Journal that Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Bonaparte had arrived at Lisbon. The joy however which I felt on this occasion was not, I find, to be of any long duration ; but on the contrary was to be succeeded by some news as unpalatable and mortifying as my intelligence had been pleasing. You may suppose, Madame, I allude, and if you do, you will conjecture rightly, that I allude to the subsequent rumor, that you and Mr. Patterson were again departed for America. How to account for this circumstance, I am utterly at a loss ! If it is true, I trust whatever may be the event, it will still be such as to establish your reputation, and the honor of your family, on as solid a basis as they have both heretofore rested ; and that the connection which you have so happily and honorably formed will at length be sanctioned in its





due extent. If this should be the case, no one will rejoice more sincerely at this event than myself. If it should unfortunately be otherwise, which I cannot bring myself to believe, it becomes our duty, however painful the practice of this duty may be, to submit with resignation to the will of Providence, which you, from your own conscious rectitude of conduct and purity of intention, will be enabled to do, so far as to insure to yourself that tranquillity and peace of mind which virtue always gives, and which neither gold nor honors can purchase.

"In this case, should any chance hereafter bring you to this part of the world, I shall feel it my indispensable duty to seize the earliest opportunity of paying my respects to you; and to assure you personally, as I now do by letter, of my readiness to render you every service in my power.

"Permit me, Madame, to subscribe myself, with most respectful regards,

"Your most obedient and most devoted servant,  
 GEORGE MATTHEW PATERSON.  
 Rue Equimoise, No. 921.

"P. S. I have already had the honor by letter of the 6th of August 1804, to make myself known to you. To Madame Jerome Bonaparte."

If the reader will turn back to Mr. Geo. M. Paterson's letter of the 6th August 1804, the two together will make up an interesting and an amusing document.

Next we have the following paragraph from the



New York papers, but without date. "Paris papers to the 20th of May brought from Amsterdam by the ship Mississippi, we are verbally informed, state that Madame Bonaparte had arrived at Amsterdam from Lisbon some days previous to the sailing of the Mississippi, but no communication was suffered between her and the shore; and the ship being ordered away was about to sail, but for what port was unknown. Jerome Bonaparte was then at Amsterdam."

Chancellor Livingston returned from Europe on this ship; but it is not true that Jerome was in Amsterdam at the time stated. He at once yielded to the dictates of the Dictator, forsook his wife, returned to service in the French Navy, and was, on the 4th of June 1805, cruising off Genoa as commander of the frigate Pomona, attended by two brigs—a *single man again*, as the anonymous correspondent said Jerome declared he would be on his arrival in France.

Digressing again into the political affairs of Holland, we copy the following paragraphs found in the London papers of the 5th of April 1805:—

"A letter from Rotterdam, of the 27th ultimo, states that the people of that country seem in general pleased with the new constitution, as it assimilates so much with their old one. The best informed politicians think that at the period of a general peace the stadtholderian government will be re-established through the intervention and influence of the cabinet of Berlin.

"Mr. Schimmelpenninck will remain at the head of the government till that time. Before the revolution,



he was a man very little known—a barrister. He is of a good family. His behavior, since he has been in a political situation, has gained him the esteem of many of his countrymen. He assumed his functions on the 29th of April.”

The English papers in their issues of June 1805, said that the ship *Erin* of Baltimore was at Amsterdam in May, with Madame Bonaparte in board, “where she was not suffered to go on shore. Madame is in the last stage of pregnancy. Her brother did not think it safe to proceed to Baltimore. The *Erin* was in the *Texel* *a week*, and was placed between a *sixty-four gun ship*, and a frigate, a *guard-boat* kept about the ship at night.”

On this situation we would forbear to indulge in any remarks. Our pen lifts from the attempt, and perspiration starts at the task. But we would ask a few questions of the civilized, the great, and the learned maritime jurist; for we make no pretensions to learning ourselves. What principle underlying the law of nations did the ship *Erin* violate? What code prepared by the wisdom of the great past? and what of the national statutes, or the unwritten law, the law of custom? What doctrine founded in international courtesies?

The *Erin*, armed with nothing more dangerous than an American flag and register, and with nothing less respectable, was entitled to the respect and confidence of every nation, yet she was driven under guns! She was simply a merchant vessel of the United States, with a cabin fitted up expressly for the accommodation



of a lady. What is "a vessel of the United States?" It is *not* "a vessel of, or belonging to, the government, carrying arms and munitions of war; but simply a ship or vessel belonging to a citizen or citizens of the United States, carrying their national flag. The Erin had on board her register and flag, granted to her on compliance with an Act of Congress passed on the 31st of December 1792, and approved by President Washington himself. She carried nothing known as "contraband of war." She was a merchant vessel, we say, owned by William Patterson of Baltimore; and her clearance from Baltimore certified that she carried "no guns." Her character and documents, therefore, subject by law and custom to the inspection of all nations, declared that she was not dangerous to the nations "with which the United States are at peace," or even at war. She was not an *alien*, foreign to all nationalities, but a fully documented ship, prepared for all the privileges of the ocean, and fitted for entry at all the ports of civilization. On her arrival at the Texel, the authorities there well knew that no one of her crew or passengers could be made a political prisoner, or a prisoner of war. The party charged with some imaginary violation of the laws of France, left the vessel in Portugal, an entirely different nationality, with which the French were at peace; and the Erin therefore passively stood before Amsterdam clear of the least guilty charge. But she was not allowed to enter any port within the jurisdiction of France; for the Emperor of that country sent two gun-ships alongside of her, for no other reason than to frighten a lady with "no guns."





If the scene could be photographed on our skies, we think sun, moon, and stars might pale at the sight of the strange figures; and the affrighted comet, dropping his load of material for building and repairing worlds, would depart a tailless wanderer through the deeper blue of the heavens.

Mr. Schimmelpenninck, whom we have already introduced, was at the time of Madame Bonaparte's arrival before Amsterdam styled "Grand Pensionary of the Batavian Republic," and was then at the head of the government of that country.

Sylvanus Bourne, Esq., who had the honor of bearing to John Adams the intelligence of his election to the office of first Vice-President of the United States, under Washington as first President, was Consul-General of the United States at Amsterdam, when Madame Bonaparte was under guard of French guns, in the *Erin*, before that city; and from the paper we copy below, we discover the highly honorable and manly course he took with respect to the humiliating condition of his countrywoman. The paper appears to be in the handwriting of Mr. Bourne himself, and we copy it in full:—

"Copy of a letter of S. Bourne, Consul-General of the United States at Amsterdam, to His Excellency R. J. Schimmelpenninck, Grand Pensionary of the Batavian Republic, in the case of the ship *Erin*, Captain Stephenson, May —, 1805.

"Sir,—I am called upon by imperious motives in which the influence of private friendship combines with that of public duty to address you on the inter-



esting case of the American ship *Erin*, Captain Stephenson, late from Lisbon, and the passengers on board, now lying in the Texel Roads, under the most rigorous interdiction of any communication with the shore.

“I shall waive all contest on the question of right resulting from the treaty between the Batavian Republic and the United States to carry on a free commerce with this country; nor shall I inquire how far the circumstances under which this vessel arrives, may constitute any illegality in the case. I am not ignorant of the avowed cause of the detention, and have only to ask that an *immediate* decision may be had thereon. My amiable countrywoman, who is on board, is very far advanced in a state of pregnancy, which renders her situation peculiarly delicate and deserving of attention. Her sufferings already, from causes which perhaps cannot be controlled, are sufficiently severe, and sure I am you will be anxious that they should not be aggravated by any unnecessary delay. I must therefore entertain the fullest confidence that you will immediately cause orders to be given for a due supply of fresh provisions to be furnished the ship, and that she be suffered to depart, if Mrs. Bonaparte cannot be permitted to find an asylum here. In this request her brother joins, united with that of having permission to go on board in person, or to send on board a sealed letter relative to the future destination of the vessel.

“Submitting the whole matter to the operation of those sentiments of propriety and justice which emi-



nently distinguish your character, I have the honor to be your obedient servant."

In May 1805, a London paper says, "The ship *Erin*, of Baltimore, arrived at Dover on the 19th of May. Madame Bonaparte was on board last from Amsterdam;" and on the 30th of May the same papers said, "Madame Jerome Bonaparte has seen very little company since her arrival in London."

For the present we will leave Madame Bonaparte in London. She has found an asylum at last among her own people. She is but *nineteen* years of age; yet she is on an ocean of trouble, and she greatly needs rest. She will have kind friends there to nurse the embers of hope during the days of her sojournment, and the calm nights which breed multitudinous thoughts.

To hear the next sad story, the kind reader will please follow me over to Genoa. Here we find "Alexander," perhaps the identical person whom our old friend Maupertuis styled "My dear Alexander." We mean Alexander Le Camus, and here is his letter. We copy it in full. It is addressed to William Patterson, Baltimore.

"Genoa, 12th of June 1805.

"Dear Sir—Mr. Bonaparte did not let you hear from him since his arrival among his family, on account of *painful circumstances* in which he was placed. Notwithstanding the difficulties there were to be levelled in adjusting the *affair* with his brother, he constantly entertained great hopes; but your daughter has far removed, if not destroyed for ever, the possi-



bility of a reconciliation. Being obliged to leave her in Lisbon, Mr. Bonaparte thought she could not have been committed to a better guide than her brother, and that her conduct would have agreed with the plan that he was to carry into execution; her situation, and her own interest, would have advised her not to take any improper steps; but finding in Holland orders which prohibited her landing on the French territory, she imprudently went to London, instead of going to a neutral port, as Embden or Bremen; and her arrival in that city mentioned in the newspapers, has excited some rumors, and will certainly give occasion for any kind of observations directed against his family. The Emperor, in a letter which Mr. Bonaparte received yesterday, expressed to him a strong dissatisfaction at it. In the present circumstances of war, such a conduct was not dictated by a good policy. It breaks all correspondence between them both, and offends the emperor, whose generous heart would have been converted to more favorable dispositions.

“However, Mr. Bonaparte begs me to assure you that he will never deviate from the principles of honor and delicacy which were always the basis of his character, and on which his happiness is established. He desires you to rely entirely upon him, and let time obliterate the first impressions made on the mind of the Emperor.

“I am happy that Mr. Bonaparte has chosen me to transmit to you the expressions of his true attachment for you and family. He does not forget the





children, whom he misses very much. We speak often of you all, and of our good acquaintances in America. Will you be so good as to recall myself to their remembrance, and be persuaded of my perfect esteem and attachment.

“Yours, truly,

“ALEXANDER LE CAMUS.”

The preceding letter speaks too plainly for itself to need explanation; and we give another letter from General Tuerreau, the French Envoy at Washington, of whom we will shortly have Madame Bonaparte's opinion.

Dating Washington, July 3d 1805, he writes:—

“I wish to ascertain with any person appointed by you the situation of the country-house which I hold from you, as well as to make a statement of the furniture left by you, and the repairs which might be necessary to make in the said house. This I hope will be as agreeable to you as to me. As we have not agreed yet on the yearly price for the rent of this country-house, please let me know it, with the date that it is to run on my account. If any immediate repairs are now judged necessary, I will with great pleasure, when agreed by you, pay them upon the rent. I am, with consideration, sir,

“TUERREAU.”

“Mr. Patterson, Merchant, Baltimore.”

We have no more letters from the Minister at present, but Madame Bonaparte will let us hear again from her father's tenant by a missile which she hurls at him from England.



Using the parlance common to the science of agriculture, let us "knock off cutting," and "shock up" that which is already down.

We must bear in mind that the mother of the Bonaparte family recommended her son Jerome to come directly to France and send his wife to Holland, where she should remain whilst negotiations for the imperial recognition of her marriage were pending at Paris. It is not clearly seen why she did so instruct her son; but the eye of history which "penetrates the cabinets of kings," and finally rests upon the form of mystery, will soon bring it to full view. She knew, and Jerome also knew, that, with respect to government, Holland was just as French as France. According to the first epistle of Le Camus, Jerome, after her humiliating detention before Amsterdam, upbraids his wife for not going to a neutral port after she cleared the Texel. If going to a neutral port was proper at last, it should also have been proper at first. It does not therefore fail to appear that the Bonapartes were determined upon a laugh at her "credulity." National diplomacy had already established the precedent of conducting negotiations for the adjustment of national differences on the soil of neutral countries, and Holland was not therefore the place for carrying on negotiations concerning the marriage. With respect to negotiations concerning *a marriage only*, London should have been considered just as neutral as Embden, Bremen, or Copenhagen.

"She imprudently went to London," says Le Camus. We ask why was going to London so impru-



dent? He lamely and miserably answers the question himself, because it "will certainly give occasion for any kind of observations directed against his family," and "such a conduct was not directed by a good policy. It breaks off all correspondence between them both, and *offends the Emperor!*" He had no other ground for offence than that her name was Patterson, and the King of England had a right to a like ground of offence because her name was Bonaparte. But he was not offended. He had no fears for the loss of his crown because the "young person" who had attached herself to a Bonaparte had arrived before London. He received her in his dominions notwithstanding her name and history, and he also honored her national colors.

"It breaks off all correspondence between them," says Le Camus. It need not be broken off; for there were her two brothers, her physician, Dr. Garnier, and her lady attendants, all fully competent to conduct it for Jerome just as well as Mr. Le Camus could conduct it for him with Mr. Patterson in Baltimore. Jerome might have conducted the correspondence himself without his signature, and bound his wife and her attendants under a sacred promise to *burn* his letters, as he said he had bound his father-in-law Mr. Patterson.

Before Jerome and his wife embarked for Europe, he had learned from Dacres, Pichon, and Tuerreau, his own countrymen and others, that an order had gone forth under the imperial seal forbidding her to board a French vessel, or "put a foot on French



territory;" and he was therefore well advised, in advance, that she would not be permitted to land in Holland. But in the face of these warnings Jerome deliberately sent his wife to that country, and consequently this act was what I have heard ladies call "a come-off."

Madame Bonaparte's first and only child was born at Camberwell, near London, on the 7th of July 1805. It was a boy, and she named him *Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte!*—Not *Patterson*.

We next meet Mr. Robert Patterson in London. The only letter we have from him touching the event just referred to is one which we shall now place before the reader. It is headed "Original per London packet *via* Philadelphia," and on the cover is written "To Mr. William Patterson, Baltimore."

Dating "London, 27th July 1805," he writes:—

"Dear Sir: I have now the pleasure to inform you that my sister is well recovered from her confinement. She has been down stairs two or three days. The child was vaccinated five or six days since, and is doing well.

"We are still without any news from the continent. The vigilance of Jerome's friends will, I am very much afraid, completely prevent his hearing from us and we from him. Poor B—— was so much afraid of another visit from the police that he has returned me by Mr. Monroe some letters which he received from me since his enlargement.

"I have as yet had but little conversation with Mr. Monroe. He does not, however, say anything very





flattering to our hopes. I shall consult him on the propriety of our going to the continent, and will endeavor to persuade my sister to whatever he may advise; but I do not think she can be diverted from her intention of going.

"Everything on our part shall be done to bring the affair to issue before we leave Europe, which can scarcely be before next spring. Write us to this place, for were we even on the continent, letters will reach us just as soon as if sent there direct. Yours affectionately."

It is not easy to determine who was meant by "Poor B——" in the above letter. Le Camus says that Bonaparte was at Genoa on the 12th of July, and received a letter from the Emperor "yesterday," which was the 11th. Another account, given on a previous page of this book, says he was there also on the 4th of June in command of the frigate *Pomona* and two brigs; and it will be seen that Le Camus locates him as still there on the 29th of July, and it is not likely that an officer on duty in the French Navy would be subject to the visits of the Genoese police; nor is it likely that Jerome would return to Mr. Patterson, by way of France, any letters on the subject of his marriage. Can it be that the writer refers to Mr. Bentalou and the police of Paris? or does he refer to some person in London subject to the visits of the police of that city?

Before Mr. Patterson and Madame Bonaparte begin to send in more letters, we will prepare the reader for the reception of the surprising intelligence



of which they are the vehicle, by giving our friend Le Camus another hearing. His letters are very entertaining and refreshing to us, because he writes for Jerome. Young ladies, especially, who are generally trying to learn how to get married themselves, often find that the experience of those already married is instructive to them; and Mr. Le Camus in the following letter may furnish them with some information that will be useful in directing their choice of a husband. From the reading of this letter, they may be impressed with the belief that "all is not gold that glitters," and that everything drawn is not the "prize which most of their sex covet."

"Genoa, 29th July 1805.

"Dear Sir—

"I committed the 13th of June to the care of the American Consul in this town, a letter for you stating the circumstances of the separation of your daughter from Mr. Bonaparte. Nothing more has occurred since. I have received no news from England but once by the doctor, who arrived here ten days ago. He left Madame in good health and spirits, notwithstanding the trouble of her situation. He met, at his landing at Rotterdam, Mr. Robert ready to embark for England, where he must be at this moment with his sister. I entertain no doubt that he will advise her to take the proper steps that are to be followed in the present affair. In my interview with him at Amsterdam, I explained to him the conduct of Mr. Bonaparte, the order and propositions of the Emperor, the consequences of an untimely opposition to



them, and the plan of conduct to pursue. He must have mentioned to you all these particulars. I added the instructions which Jerome had received from M. \* \* \*, and his wishes to see them executed.

“You know him too well, dear Sir, to misrepresent in the slightest degree his intention, and not to be persuaded that he will leave nothing undone to bring the Emperor to a reconciliation to which his happiness is so closely annexed. I cannot repeat to you too often the assurance of the sentiments in which he is persevering. Nothing is neglected on his part to prove him worthy of your confidence, attachment, and general esteem; but now too much precipitation would be fruitless, and operate nothing else but the ruin of your son-in-law. Your daughter has only to yield to the present, and expect a better time. Mr. Bonaparte hopes that you will advise her not to reject the marks of the benevolence of the Emperor, if you consider them in the proper light. A refusal would offend him and destroy everything.

“When Madame shall be able to undertake a sea voyage, Mr. Bonaparte desires, if she is not recalled, that she will return to America and live there in her own house, and in the same way as she did when she was in Baltimore, and as if she was expecting her husband, until he shall succeed in obtaining her recall. He will anticipate all her wishes, and provide for everything in that momentary establishment.

“Mr. Bonaparte cannot write to you in this moment. This privation is very grievous to him. You will soon know the reasons of it. Do not let anybody



know the contents of your letters mentioning family matters. Keep them open only to your wife.

“Mr. Bonaparte has in this port under his command a small squadron of five men-of-war, and is ready to sail in a few days for a mission. If he is successful, he will ask his wife as a reward of his conduct.

“I have not in my recollection the debts that Mr. Bonaparte may have left behind, but they are trifling. The bill of M. Chandron is correct. Your accounts will be settled in Paris as soon as you please. I hope that my letter will find all the family in good health, and relieve you from anxiety on account of a beloved daughter. I address this under the cover of your correspondent in Lisbon, and hope it will be conveyed to America by a safe opportunity.

“Mr. Bonaparte kisses the children tenderly, and sends his love to the family. I beg you to present my compliments to her, and not to forget that I will always remain your affectionate and devoted

“LE CAMUS.”





## CHAPTER VIII.

Robert Patterson at Dover—His letter from that place—Jerome Bonaparte again—Mr. Monroe and Mr. Patterson—Madame Bonaparte going to the Continent—Her letter to her father—Mr. Patterson writes from London—Another letter from Madame Bonaparte—Marchioness of Donnegal—General Tuerreau—Mr. Monroe—Deceitfulness of the French—Dr. Garnier is deceptive—He recommends Madame Bonaparte to go home—Jerome does the same—She goes when ready—Le Camus again—Napoleon's speech—Jerome at Malmaison—He writes to the Emperor—The Emperor's reply—Jerome's marriage has no existence—Mr. Mellhiny of London—Madame Bonaparte and child embark for home—Captain Bentalou writes again—Amusing letters—Jerome dejected—His "little girl" affair—"My dear little wife"—Queen of Etruria spurns Jerome—His second marriage—Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte—His death—His letter.

WE next find Mr. Robert Patterson at Dover, England, a seaport on the strait of Dover, opposite Calais, France. He is not far from Lille, the residence of Mr. George Matthew Patterson. Dating August 13th 1805, he addresses a letter to Messrs. William Patterson & Sons, Baltimore:—

"Gentlemen," says he, "I have the pleasure of informing you of Captain Duncan's arrival. He came in consequence of orders to that effect that I had given to one or two pilots of this place for him. It is my intention to send the Robert home to you, and you may make your insurance accordingly. She has \$60,000 on board. I believe we will put on board fifteen or twenty tons of coal, and subject her



thereby to a tonnage duty in order to get a regular clearance to Baltimore.

“It was with infinite satisfaction that I learned by a letter of the 27th July from S. & H. of their having landed the dollars from on board the Baltimore in conformity to my directions, which it seems they have got rid of without loss. She was to have gone into Lisbon in a ballast of brick and iron for specie. I have written to that place to have her despatched from thence to Baltimore. Before I knew of her specie being landed, I had given similar orders as those for Dunkin to the pilots to send her here for my orders. If she does come into this place, we will consider how far it is prudent to send her to Lisbon for specie; but let her sail from what port in Europe she may after I can convey instructions to them, it must be for Baltimore, as it will not answer to let her proceed to India.

“Captain Spafford, in the London packet, experienced some little damage in a gale of wind, and put into the Downs to repair it, on or about the 7th inst. He got under weigh again, but was immediately boarded by an officer from one of His Majesty’s gun brigs. His papers have been sent to London to see whether they can do anything with her; they are all correct, and there can be no doubt but she will be immediately given up.

“We are still without any information from Jerome that can be depended upon. All idea of visiting the continent has been renounced from, I think; a just apprehension that it would revive the passions of his



brother, as it would be, in some measure, opposing him; and particularly as such a step would have a tendency to counteract any exertions that Jerome may be making.

"I have mentioned, in my former letters, that all vessels fallen in with his majesty's cruisers coming from America with cargoes which they had brought from either of the Indies, are sent in for adjudication. Their having landed their cargoes in the United States is of no avail, as they allege here it is a mere evasion; and that they must consider the voyage to Europe as a continuation of the former one.

"Yours, affectionately,

"ROBERT PATTERSON."

"P. S. Mr. Monroe and myself had some conversation whether it would not be as well, if not better, that Betsy should return home; as it is uncertain when the affair will be brought to issue. I return tomorrow to London, and if we determine on it will embark in the Robert. I do not, however, think it probable we shall return this winter. She and her son are well."

This letter came by the ship Warren *via* New York, and bears the post-mark "New York, October 5."

Next in the order of time comes the following short letter in the handwriting of Madame Bonaparte, directed to William Patterson, Esq., Baltimore. We give it in full, in every particular:—

"August 15th 1805.

"Dear Sir,—

"Our plans are changed with respect to Mrs. An-



derson—that is to say, Mrs. Anderson does not mean to go until next spring; therefore I do not send some things to Mama that I mentioned in my letter to her; but by the first good opportunity they shall be sent. We have just heard that Bonaparte is going to Paris for a few days.

“ELIZA.”

To this letter, as to others, she places the five letters first in order in the name of Elizabeth. The time this letter arrived in Baltimore is unknown. As it bears no American post-mark, it must have come as an enclosure.

On the 16th Mr. Patterson is in London. On that day he wrote a business-letter to the house in Baltimore, which is of no interest here, and the following private letter to his father, which we copy in full:—

“London, 16th August 1805.

“Dear Sir,—

“Since writing the house this morning, we have prevailed on Mrs. Anderson to remain here, as it is possible I may find it necessary or beneficial to go to France; in which case it would be more proper that my sister should not be left alone.

“I received to-day a letter from Mr. O’Meally, dated 2d August, from Paris. He mentions that Jerome was expected the next week there; but that he would not remain more than eight or ten days. They were fitting up a house for him.

“Yours, respectfully,

“ROBERT PATTERSON.”





Next we have a letter from Madame Bonaparte, in which she does not fail to remember General Tuerreau, the French Minister at Washington, and other gentlemen, who appear to be conversant with her affairs. She appears to think, as well she may, that deception has been practised upon her; and that without a real friend in Europe, she stood alone. We copy the letter in full. It was addressed "William Patterson, Esq., Baltimore."

"September 3d 1805.

"Dear Sir,—

"The John & Joseph sails to-morrow, and although I have nothing new to write, I cannot resist sending you a few lines. Prudence, who was of no earthly use, sailed in the Baltimore. I wrote you by her that we had no letters from Bonaparte—but Dr. Garnier wrote to me from Genoa the 15th of July, advising me to return to America, and that Bonaparte desired it; and that I would not see him before a year or eighteen months. As Bonaparte did not write himself, we are disposed to think that Mr. Garnier wrote the letter of his own accord, and indeed the letter bears all the marks of being a deception.

"I told you, likewise, that an intimate friend of the Marchioness of Donnegal, residing at Genoa, had seen Bonaparte on the 29th of June. He requested that person to inform me that his sentiments towards me were not changed; and that he was still as much attached to me as ever. The Marchioness of Donnegal is at a watering-place, Tunbridge Wells. She has written to me.



"I have written three times to Lucien Bonaparte, but have never been able to get a letter conveyed to Jerome. I told you likewise of the proposition that Le Camus brought to Robert; but he said Bonaparte desired me to keep quiet for some time, and he would try to effect something.

"Mr. Monroe thinks I had better remain here some time—indeed, the climate agrees very well with me, and I have no objection to staying as long as you please. We live extremely retired, and I spend as little money as possible. We have no letters from you since our arrival here.

"Yours, affectionately,

"ELIZA."

"P. S. I mentioned to you before to beware of Tuerreau, the French Minister. He will write everything you say. The French are very intriguing and deceitful. Likewise be on your guard before Mr. O'Donnell, who, though a very good man, repeats everything to his wife. This I know to be a fact. I am very circumspect here."

The following letter from Mr. Robert Patterson, enclosing an extract from a letter written by Napoleon, the Emperor, to his brother Jerome, will fully explain the letters of Le Camus and Madame Bonaparte, which have just been brought to the notice of the reader, the former in the preceding, and the latter in the current chapter.

"London, 5th September 1805.

"Dear Sir,—

"Since we have been in this country, the only in-



telligence we have got from the Continent is by a letter from Dr. Garnier, dated at Genoa. In that he recommends Betsy's going home, and gives this advice in the name of her husband. But as we cannot conceive that Jerome would direct the doctor to write on a subject of this nature, and as we have some reason to think the doctor is not entitled to much regard in consequence of his conduct in Paris, we are determined not to act on anything coming from him.

"I mentioned in my letters from Amsterdam last spring that Le Camus was the bearer of a letter which the Emperor had written to Jerome, and which the latter had given him with a view that it should be shown his wife, in order to enable her, I suppose, to judge of the situation with his family. As the present is a good opportunity, I will repeat the substance of it here, which is as follows. The Emperor begins by saying *he will never acknowledge the marriage, and directs Jerome to write his wife to return to her family. On condition that she will, and does not assume the name of Bonaparte, to which he says she has no right to, he says he will direct his minister in America to allow her a pension of 60,000 francs per annum.*

"I am very desirous of knowing whether we ought to accept of any terms in the event of a recognisal being impossible by a new marriage on his part. My own opinion is never to hear of a settlement without his friends should force him to marry again; and that in no case ought she to give up her name. If her



husband cares to make any settlement on her, it is well enough; but the principal would be better than a precarious annual payment, if it could be had.

"I really see no prospect of the Emperor's becoming reconciled, and do not think it will be of any kind of use to wait longer than the spring, at which time we will embark on our return. If any of your vessels are in the way, we will return by one of them.

"Betsy and her son are both well. He is really a fine large fellow. I was a little indisposed when I arrived in this country, but am now perfectly recovered. Yours affectionately, ROBERT PATTERSON.

"P. S. It is probable that I will repair to Paris in the course of the winter—that is if there is any prospect of doing anything."

This letter was sent by the vessel "John & Joseph," Captain Manning, and the enclosure, with the prefatory remark of Mr. Patterson, reads as follows:—

"On Jerome's arrival at M—, he wished to have seen his brother, but the latter would not receive him. He was however told to write, which Jerome did, just mentioning his arrival. An answer was returned in substance merely as follows:—

*"I have received your letter of this morning. There are no faults that you have committed which may not be effaced in my eyes by a sincere repentance. Your marriage is null both in a religious and legal point of view. I will never acknowledge it. Write to Miss Patterson to return to the United States; and tell her it is not possible to give things another turn. On con-*





*dition of her going to America, I will allow her a pension during her life of 60,000 francs per year, provided she does not take the name of my family, to which she has no right, her marriage having no existence."*

This paper is marked "copy and translation" in the handwriting of Mr. Robert Patterson, and it is the "piece" which Bonaparte "spoke." The abbreviation M—, in the above is Malmaison.

We will now introduce to the reader, Mr. James McIlhenny, of London, Mr. Patterson's commercial correspondent in that city. Dating London, 16th September 1805, he writes: "Dear Sir—Your much esteemed favor of the 18th of July, I received a few days ago, and have noted the contents. Madame Bonaparte and her child, her brother Robert, and Mrs. Anderson will embark in a few days on board the brig Mars, Captain Murphy, which will soon be ready to sail from hence for Baltimore. I could have wished it had not been so late in the season, but still I am in hopes from the vessel being a fast sailer, that she will be safe with you before the north-west winds become severe on your coast. The child as well as its mother are in a very good state of health, which is a fortunate circumstance, as I fear they will not find themselves as comfortably accommodated as they were on board of the Erin—the cabin of this vessel being very small. However, they are determined to go, although I believe they have written to you not long since that they had concluded to remain here all the winter, and return to America in the spring, having given up all idea of going to the continent, not



having had any encouragement from the party on that side of the water; and indeed I have always been of opinion that if anything can be done, America will be the best place to have matters arranged; and at all events she must, I think, be more comfortably situated with her relations and friends in America, than she could be in a strange country.

“Robert no doubt has advised you of the important changes he has made in some of the voyages you had planned—finding it absolutely necessary in consequence of the rigid measures recently gone into by this government to suppress that valuable branch of American commerce. It would appear now however that they were relaxing in some degree, and will let all pass except where the ship is bound direct to or from the mother country to the colonies.

“It is to be hoped the American government will take some measures to have that part of your valuable trade put on a more respectable footing, and that their flag in future will not meet with so many degrading insults as it has hitherto met with.

“All accounts we have recently from agricultural societies as well as individuals state the crops generally throughout Europe to be very good; consequently the price of grain has been on the decline; so much so, that there will not be any chance for Americans finding a market for their wheat or flour in any part of Europe, unless the destruction and waste that must occur from the immense armies that are now taking the field once more on the continent to ravage and destroy one another, may have some effect



to keep up the prices of provisions; for there is not any manner of doubt that the combined powers will make some great effort to try to reduce the gigantic power of Bonaparte; and at present it is difficult to say what the result of so great a contest may be; but this I may venture to risk as my opinion that a general peace is yet far distant, and indeed I think ere that event takes place you will hear of a wonderful change in the political affairs in some one of the two great contending powers; for you may be assured that this country while under the present government will never make peace with Bonaparte, unless he relinquishes the whole or the greater part of his conquered dominions; and, on the other hand, we all know his determined and unlimited ambition, so that there must some great and unforeseen disaster befall some one of the parties, before a peace can be made."

This letter was addressed to William Patterson, Esq., Baltimore, and endorsed "Ship Huron *via* New York."

On the 21st of September, Mr. McIlhenny writes again to Mr. Patterson:—

"Dear Sir—I had the pleasure of addressing you a few days ago, the chief object of which was to advise you of the sudden resolution of Robert and Madame Bonaparte to embark for America, and that they had engaged to go in the brig Mars, Captain Murphy, from hence for Baltimore. Since then we have been busily engaged in getting things ready for their departure, and was in hopes that by this time they would have been ready to sail; but from some unfore-



seen occurrence at the custom-house respecting some things belonging to the captain the brig was prevented clearing out. The matter is now however finally arranged, and I see nothing to prevent their going on board on the 25th inst. at Gravesend, where they intend to embark, and at which time the brig will be ready and clear to sail from that place direct for Baltimore."

This letter came on the ship *Enterprise* *via* New York.

On the 9th of October 1805 we have another hearing from Captain Bentalou in Paris. After writing a long letter to Mr. William Patterson concerning some bales of merchandise about which there was some misunderstanding, he adds to his letter the following postscript:—

"Enclosed in the last letter from Robert in London, I found two letters for Jerome, one I believe was from yourself, and the other from his wife. Jerome arrived here the latter end of last week; and determined at all hazards, I enclosed them under one cover, directed them in the form required, and, accompanied by my servant last Monday, I myself went to his door, and saw the packet delivered to his own porter; so that there can be no doubt but he received them on that morning. I have not since heard anything from him, nor do I believe he would dare have an interview with me. Should he, however, communicate a wish of the kind, notwithstanding the persecution I have already experienced, I would brave all danger to act the part of the friend I profess to be."





On the 17th October, Captain Bentalou writes another letter from Paris which he directs in the following words: "Robert Patterson, Esq., or in his absence William Patterson, Senr., Esq., Merchant, Baltimore." The writer says, "In all conscience your silence is beyond all reason, and my anxiety is as great as can be well imagined to know where you now are, and whether it is true that your sister is gone, as we have been told by a lieutenant of our Navy, who says whilst he was in London he saw you daily and became intimate with you. I notwithstanding doubt the fact much because I think the season too far advanced, and moreover suppose that had that been the case, you would ere this have returned to your post; and were you there, if not to me, you surely would have wrote to somebody else here.

"On the 16th ultimo, I received the last from you, dated the 2d of August, with the two enclosed. The person to whom they were directed lately arrived here, and the moment I found out his domicile, I enclosed the two letters under a blank cover, directed them properly, and on Monday the 7th inst. attended by my servant, I saw him deliver them to his porter; and as he occupied a house to himself, there could be no mistake, and no doubt but that he must have received them on that morning. I have since learned from a lady present that, on the next day in the evening, at one of his sister's, *he appeared extremely dejected and pensive. Everybody, she said, took notice of it*; and whether the receipt of those letters were the cause of it, is best known to himself; but I have,



and will take care not to let that lady, or anybody else here, know anything about it. I have not since heard anything more transpire about him, but I am on the watch, and promise you that if either himself or any of his attendants have any wish to see me, and let me know it, I will brave any danger for an interview which would be as gratifying to my feelings as could possibly be to you or your relatives; but if he really has any inclination of the kind, I fear he knows himself to be so closely observed that he will not dare to risk anything of the kind. Rewbell is no more here, and I regret it very much, because from their old acquaintance, he would probably have seen him, and no doubt his attendants, frequently, and through that channel I could have come to something direct; but deprived of that safe intermediary, I do not for the present know any other person so suitable with whom I could safely confide. I have however been told by one who pretends to know it from the right quarter, that when his brother first saw him he addressed him thus:—

*“So, sir, you are the first of the family who shamefully abandoned his post. It will require many splendid actions to wipe off that stain from your reputation. As to your love affair with your little girl, I do not regard it.”*

“Whatever degree of credit or consequence you may be inclined to give to that report, I beg of you to conceal it from your sister. For what exploits he intends him for, it is not yet known, nor can it be foreseen; and if what is said is true it would appear



that he will remain here unemployed this winter. He is now in the house of one of his absent sisters, and it is asserted that he will shortly take possession of the one lately owned by his brother-in-law, the entrance to which is by an arch which you had in view from the window of the apartment you last occupied here. It was probably thought too small for the other, as a much larger one is preparing for him.

“After having written the foregoing to you by Russell, I am informed by James Mellhiny that he has this day received a letter from you which he has not thought proper to communicate, and barely tells me that you and your sister had embarked, and must by this time be half way home. Taking his word for it, I will not send this as I intended it, but as I understand that Waddle is not yet gone, I will this moment go to General Armstrong, and if in time I will request him to insert this with his despatches.”

On the 18th Mr. Bentalou continues: “The departure of Mr. Waddle having been from day to day delayed, affords me the opportunity of adding this to my two last of 9th and 16th, all going by the same conveyance. By this however I hasten to impart to you much more pleasing intelligence than I were able to do by my former. It comes to me from a lady much in our interest, and from whom I expect occasionally to receive much useful information; and from her I have learned that last evening, at a select company collected at one of his sisters, where my informant was, and our man too, after a concert, dancing was introduced; he was pressed, and as my friend is a



good dancer, he took her for his partner, and in the of course of conversation spoke of his wife several times, always calling her by that endearing name, and relating occurrences of a nature most affecting. Among the rest he said:—

*“He would for ever remember the shipwreck they had encountered together. How well on that trying occasion she did behave! How, when danger was over, he pressed her into his arms!”*

“In short, my dear friend tells me that those who are most habitually in his company all agree in saying, that he is almost always talking about her, delighting in the recollection of her good qualities, and never mentions her name without saying—

*“My wife! My dear little wife!”*

“From a heart apparently so well disposed, I think some ultimate good may be reasonably prognosticated. Should that be the case, I promise you that no man in the world would more sincerely rejoice than your ever devoted friend and well-wisher.”

We have another letter from Mr. McIlhenny of London, and though it is long, yet it is full of interest from beginning to end. Dating 28th October 1805, he writes to “William Patterson, Esq., Baltimore:”—

“My last was advising you of the intended departure of your son Robert and his sister, with her child, from this country. Since then I have received your favor of the 9th of August, covering letters for Robert and Madame Bonaparte, which were a few days ago sent on to Liverpool, with a number of other letters for Robert to be put on board the Birmingham for Baltimore.





“The *Mars*, Captain Murphy, with that part of your family I have already mentioned, went through *The Downs* on the 27th ult., which is the last we have heard of them; but as the winds have since been to the eastward, with but little variation, we have every reason to think and hope that ere this they are safe with you.

“There has not been any letters or messages for Madame Bonaparte from the continent since her departure; nor can I throw any further light on that unfortunate affair, only to repeat my opinion merely *that they are separated for ever*. What confirms me in that opinion on that head is *Jerome's coming into the measures proposed by the Emperor*. I believe he is now at Paris, and from what I can learn from several American gentlemen recently from that place, he has been created a prince, and it was generally understood there that *overtures had been made to the Queen of Etruria to marry him, but that she spurned at the idea with the greatest contempt, and has said she would in preference abdicate her crown*.

“The war has commenced on the continent with uncommon vigor, particularly on the part of the French; and Bonaparte goes on with his usual good luck. The present moment is big with great events! The next mail from the continent will no doubt bring us the news of a decisive victory on the part of the French, but whether that will tend to bring about an immediate peace with France and Austria is a matter as yet not easy to determine, the Russian armies not having yet got on the field of battle. At all events



however I think you may safely conclude that a general peace will not be the result of anything that may be done this campaign ; and that there are some years yet to come before peace is restored between this country and France."

On the 31st of July it was published in London that "accounts from Genoa of the 23d of June state that yesterday morning the Princess Eliza and other distinguished personages went on board the *Pomona*, commanded by Jerome Bonaparte. They were saluted on their arrival and departure by a double salute of artillery. Jerome is reconciled to the Emperor his brother. The Princess Eliza exerted herself very much to effect the reconciliation. Jerome, according to reports, will shortly be made the Arch-Duke of Genoa."

We have not been able to find on record the time of entry of the ship *Mars* at the port of Baltimore. The newspapers appear to be silent on the subject, but Mr. McIlhenny dates her arrival about the 28th of October. Madame Bonaparte however is safe in Baltimore again, and but for the sable shadows, now and then crossing the radiant disk of her young life, she would be happy.

In the spring of 1806, Mr. Le Camus turns up in Cayenne, and writes another letter, from which we copy a paragraph. Addressing Mr. Patterson in Baltimore, and dating "May the 21st 1806," he writes :—"I enclose a letter for Mrs. Bonaparte. I wish I could convince you of what I have already told you in my former letters. I feel how uneasy you



may be in the present circumstances; but if you believe there are *on earth moral honor and delicacy, you have no reason to be alarmed.*"

We have a letter from Mr. Robert Patterson dated "Boston, 8th of September 1806, from which we copy a short sentence. He writes, 'after the many newspaper accounts I have seen respecting Mr. Bonaparte's squadron, I expect to find him with you on my return.'"

Dating, "November 21st 1806," William Patterson, Esq., Madame Bonaparte's father, writes to W. C. Nicholas, Esq., of Virginia, and from his letter we copy the following:—"You may have seen by the last accounts from France, published in the newspapers, that Jerome Bonaparte was restored to favor by his brother; and that a second marriage had, or was about to take place. We have no information on this subject but what appears in the papers, and I am led to believe that it must be well founded; for I do not conceive that the Emperor would be reconciled to Jerome on any other terms. It differs however very widely from his letters to Betsy when he was lately on our coast; and from every other part of his conduct since he left this country. But the temptation, in the situation he was placed in, was perhaps too great for him, or any other young man, to resist."

We have some more news from Jerome coming by way of New York, which Mr. William Neilson, Jr., of that city communicates to Madame Bonaparte's father under date of April 21st 1806. "When I called on the captain respecting the picture," writes Mr. Neil-



son, "he entered into conversation with me respecting your son-in-law; and informed me that he had dined with him several times—and that at all times he expressed great affection for your daughter. He spoke publicly of his determination of adhering strictly to his marriage; and that he would not be considered a *French-man* if his wife was not considered a *French-woman*. The captain says Prince Jerome has become very steady, and behaves with propriety and like a man."

Notwithstanding all this, and the fact that his own legal wife was still living in Baltimore, his brother, the Emperor of France, caused Jerome to be married, a second time, to Frederica Catharina, daughter of the King of Wurtemberg, on the 12th of August 1807! On this subject we have nothing to say.

Madame Bonaparte, first and only wife of Jerome, still lives in Baltimore, ripe in years and in honors; but her husband is gone to his reckoning. The reader will however inquire of us, where is the little boy of Camberwell? We reply by saying, he lived in Baltimore, a highly respectable and honored citizen of the United States. He was a good man, and the chamber where he met his fate was therefore "privileged." An imposing granite obelisk, erected within the enclosure of "Loudon Park Cemetery," near Baltimore, marks the spot where his remains peacefully repose. From it we copy the inscription:—





“Sacred  
To the Memory of  
JEROME NAPOLEON BONAPARTE,  
Born  
July 7th 1805.  
Died  
June 17th 1870,  
Aged 65.  
*Requiescat in pace.*”

A tender memorial of his youth is preserved—a letter to his “Grandpapa,”—and we give it in full, with a translation:—

“Seminaire de Mont St. Mary, Fevrier 1 1817.

“Mon Cher Grand-papa—Je ne vous ai jamais écrits une lettre en français parceque vous ne l’entendez pas; mais pour vous donner une preuve de ma bonne volonté d’apprendre le français, je prends ma plume pour cela. Je veux vous donner une preuve de mon amitié pour vous en écrivant une lettre en français. Comment vous portez-vous? pour moi je me porte très bien, et je désire beaucoup vous voir et j’espère que vous viendrez bientôt me voir.

“Adieu, mon très cher grand-papa, c’est tout ce que j’ai à vous écrire a présent; mais que je veux que vous bientôt respondiez à ma lettre.

“Je suis votre très obeissant et tres aimant fils,

“JEROME BONAPARTE.”

“Seminary of Mount St. Mary  
“February 1, 1817.

“My Dear Grandfather—I have never written to you a letter in French, because you do not understand it; but to give you a proof of my good will to



learn it, I take my pen for this purpose. I want to give you a proof of my love for you, in writing you a letter in French. How do you do? for me, I am very well, and I have a great desire to see you.

“Farewell, my dear grandfather, it is all I write to you for the present; but I want you to answer my letter soon. I am your very obedient and loving son,

JEROME BONAPARTE.”



## APPENDIX.

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WE copy the following article from the "Baltimore Sun," the most popular and extensively circulated paper in Maryland. It was published in the issue of that paper on the 19th of January 1870, several months before the death of Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte; and as it refers to the death of Jerome, his father, it will be highly interesting and instructive to the reader.

### THE AMERICAN BONAPARTES.

*The Imperial Family of France and its Connections in Baltimore.*

The Louisville Courier-Journal has the following:

The revolutionary movements which are now going forward in France invest the Napoleonic dynasty with additional interest. Prince Pierre Bonaparte, who has caused the pot to boil so fiercely, is a son of the great Emperor's brother Lucien, who was considered the ablest of the family next after Napoleon. The present Emperor is regarded by many as not a Bonaparte at all, but the son of a Dutch admiral by Hortense Beauharnais, the daughter of Josephine. Louis Bonaparte was forced by his brother to marry Hor-



tense. He was in love with another woman, and withal a dreamy sort of person. Those who believe in the operation of a principle of poetic justice running the progress of history, make mention of the fact that the grandson of Josephine, and not of Napoleon, now rules in France as proof that the "whirligig of time brings in his revenges." Josephine once said "My progeny shall be supreme." But Josephine was not the only woman who was ill-used by the imperial Corsican. Nor was she the only one who cherished hopes of a divine revenge through her descendants. And hereby hangs a tale.

In 1803 Jerome Bonaparte, then in command of a French frigate, landed in New York. As the brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, he was received with distinction, and was most hospitably entertained wherever he went. While in Baltimore he met Miss Elizabeth Patterson, the daughter of a wealthy merchant of that city, and married her on the 24th of December of the same year. The ceremony was performed by Bishop Carroll, of the Catholic diocese of Baltimore, a brother of the distinguished Charles Carroll of Carrollton. The marriage contract was drawn up by Alexander Dallas, afterwards Secretary of the Treasury, and was witnessed by the mayor of Baltimore and several other official personages. After remaining in the United States about a year, Jerome Bonaparte and his wife embarked for France in an American ship.

In the meantime Napoleon, to whom the marriage of his brother gave great offence, had ordered that





the newly married pair should be permitted to land at no port over which France exercised authority. They, therefore, landed at Lisbon, where Jerome left his wife, directing her to proceed to Amsterdam, and went to Paris with the hope of prevailing upon Napoleon to recognise his marriage; but this Napoleon refused to do, at the same time upbraiding his brother for daring to marry without his consent. On arriving at Amsterdam, whither she went in the American ship, Madame Bonaparte was confronted with Napoleon's order forbidding her to land. She then sailed for England, where she took up her residence at Camberwell, near London. And here on the 7th of July 1805, was born her only child, Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, now living in Baltimore.

Napoleon had determined that his brothers should marry among the princesses of Europe, and all efforts to induce him to recognise the wife of Jerome were vain, and Jerome was at last forced to yield to the wishes of the Emperor and marry the Princess Frederica Catharine, of Wurtemberg. Madame Bonaparte met her husband but once afterward, and then no word passed between them. It was in the gallery of the Pitti Palace at Florence, in Italy. The Princess was leaning on the arm of her husband when the meeting took place. Jerome started aside on recognising Madame Bonaparte, and a moment afterward whispered to the Princess: "That lady is my former wife." He immediately left the gallery, and the next morning quitted Florence.

Although Napoleon declared the marriage of



Jerome and Miss Patterson null and void, he could never induce the Pope to so declare it; and a few years ago, when the question as to the rank to which the Bonapartes of Baltimore were entitled as princes of the imperial household was up for decision, the protest of the Pope against the decree of Napoleon was brought forward.

Soon after the birth of her son Madame Bonaparte returned to Baltimore, where she has principally resided ever since, in the enjoyment of a large fortune. She was about eighteen years of age when she first met Jerome Bonaparte, and is now about eighty-five. She was always a great admirer of Napoleon in spite of the cruel manner in which he treated her. It is said that she believes that her grandson will yet be Emperor of France.

Madame Bonaparte's son, Jerome Napoleon, now in his sixty-fifth year, has lived in Baltimore since his boyhood. He was educated at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1826. He afterwards studied law, but never practised at the bar. When quite a young man he married a very wealthy lady, Miss Susan Mary Williams, originally of Roxbury, Mass., and has since devoted his time to the management of his large estate and to agricultural pursuits. His own fortune, added to that of his wife, made him one of the wealthiest men in Baltimore. He visited his father several times in Europe, and for many years received from him a large allowance. He is on good terms with Louis Napoleon, and has once visited the French court, accompanied by one of his sons, upon



an invitation from the Emperor. During the reign of Louis Philippe he was permitted to remain in Paris for a short time, but was required to assume his mother's name of Patterson.

Mr. Bonaparte has two children, Jerome Napoleon, who was born in Baltimore in 1832, and Charles Joseph, born in 1852. The first named graduated at West Point at the age of twenty, and after remaining a short time in the United States army, resigned his commission and entered that of France as a sub-lieutenant. He was with the French and English allies in the Crimea, and received a decoration from the Sultan of Turkey for his gallant conduct at the siege of Sebastopol.

Mr. Bonaparte is said to bear a strong personal resemblance to his uncle, the first Napoleon. If the validity of his father's marriage with Miss Patterson were recognised by the Court of France, it would give him and his children precedence over his half-brothers and their sister, the Princess Mathilde, the children of Jerome by his second wife. Efforts to secure such recognition have been made on perhaps more than one occasion, but they failed, though how far they fell short of success has never been known to the public. Jerome himself, who died at a venerable old age a year or two ago, bitterly opposed all such efforts to obtain precedence for the Baltimore Bonapartes, and would acknowledge them only by the name of Patterson.

The scrimmage now going on in Paris is peculiar. The American Bonapartes are republicans, and so are



the agitators in the Corps Legislatif. It may afford some of them an opportunity, and a Patterson may yet occupy the Tuileries as Prince President, just as Louis, a Beauharnais, occupied the palace in 1849. At all events the story is worth re-telling, as more or less apropos of transpiring events in France, in which the Bonapartes, their past, present and future, bear such close relation. Jerome Bonaparte acted badly enough to Miss Patterson. Nor has his family done much better. It would be a piece of poetic justice if Time should balance the account.





[FROM the same paper, issued on the 17th of January 1873, we clip the following article, which explains itself:—]

### THE BALTIMORE BONAPARTES.

*Views of Madame Patterson and Col. Jerome Bonaparte on the French Situation.*

A Baltimore correspondent of the New York Herald gives a detailed history of the American Bonapartes, and especially of Madame Jerome Bonaparte Patterson, of this city, who was married to the youngest brother of the great Napoleon, by whose decree they were divorced, with which history most of our readers are familiar. The writer, however, adds some interesting particulars in regard to the recent illness of the lady and in regard to the death of the late Emperor Napoleon. He says:—

Though eighty-eight years of age, Madame Bonaparte retains

#### TRACES OF A ONCE WONDROUS BEAUTY.

Her complexion is still smooth and comparatively fair, while her peculiarly beautiful blue eyes are as yet undimmed. Her nature is suspicious and warped by her many injuries. She seems in constant dread of some indefinable injury; never receives visitors in her room save her most intimate acquaintances, and is always on the watch for some fancied insult. For the past month she has been quite ill, likely to die, so the physician said, at any moment, but on hearing the fact mentioned by an attendant, she straightened herself up in bed and said, emphatically, that



“SHE WOULDN'T DIE,

and that she intended to live until she was one hundred years old.” From that time she began to improve until within a day or so, when she has grown worse. She believes that she will yet live to see her grandson on the throne of France. She had

A VERY MEAN OPINION OF THE LATE EMPEROR,

probably because of the fact that he refused to allow her a share in his uncle Jerome's estate, to which, as his widow, she was legally entitled. Madame Bonaparte is, however, very rich in her own right. The present Jerome Bonaparte was always a great favorite with her previous to his marriage. She made a handsome allowance to him while in France, it is said, and during his sojourn there she supplied him liberally with money, as it was always her ambition to have her grandson live like the nobility. She has at all times watched the political condition of France with great interest, and at times would talk freely of her ambition for her grandson, and declare

HIS RIGHT TO THE THRONE

in case of the death of the Emperor and Prince Imperial. Colonel Bonaparte has steadily refrained from making public his views on the situation in France; but it is said by his friends that he would not be averse to receiving any distinction which the French people might wish to confer upon him; and, in fact, that he still hopes for the restoration of the Empire and the elevation of the Bonaparte family to its control. He



is personally so fond of the dead Emperor, the Empress and their son, and was such a favorite with them, that no position inimical to their interest, however complimentarily offered, would be accepted by him. This fact is so well known by his friends that they usually look upon him as willing to accept

#### A CO-REGENCY WITH THE EMPRESS

during the minority of the Prince Imperial. I will here distinctly reassert that this is but the belief of his friends and not his declaration. His grandmother takes that view of it very strongly; but in consequence of their personal estrangement has probably no better ground for it than his friends.

Colonel Bonaparte is at this moment on the friendliest footing and pleasantest epistolary intercourse with the various members of his family in Europe—notably the Empress and the Princess Mathilde—and it is much more than probable that the opinion of Colonel Bonaparte has been sought and will be followed in the measures to be taken by his family in consequence of the death of the Emperor, and that in the events of the future he will have a controlling part. He has all the qualities which endear a ruler to the popular heart, being strikingly handsome, suave in his manners, a brave and daring soldier, and possessed of no ordinary intelligence. He is a great favorite in France among those who look for a restoration of the Empire. The death of the late Napoleon affected Madame Bonaparte strongly, and on the reception of the news she



betrayed emotions which had long lain dormant. One of her lady attendants

ASKED HER IF SHE WAS SORRY.

"No," said the madame, emphatically, "he would not recognise my grandson, and I don't care a bit."

On being asked what were her views on the political situation in France, she evinced no marked interest, and merely said that, for herself, she had done all she could to secure her grandson's rightful inheritance, and that she could do more, as she was nearly approaching her final end. She declared the hope and belief that he would at some time ascend the throne of France. The ruling passion of this remarkable woman's life has been to regain

HER LOST RIGHTS

in behalf of this grandson, and to that end she has studiously economized, though enormously rich; living in seclusion, that the greater wealth he lives to inherit might add to his chances for the crown. She often says that this money may be needed for that purpose, and if so, here it all is. She keeps it easily realizable, and could convert it all into cash in thirty days.

She lives in the fourth or fifth story of a boarding-house on the corner of St. Paul and Lexington streets, and has never, until very recently, had any companion or nurse. She talks constantly of her

RELATIONS TO THE FRENCH EMPIRE,

and although she is displeased with her grandson for what she terms "injuring his own prospects for the





throne" by marrying an American lady, she appears brighter and more cheerful since Napoleon's death than before, and declares her strong belief of the accession of her grandson to the throne in the near future.

YESTERDAY SHE CONVERSED FREELY UPON THE SITUATION IN FRANCE,

and stated that her belief in a great popular demonstration at the funeral of Napoleon was strong. "This," said she, "would show that the Bonaparte family were yet admired by their people, and that the empire would yet be re-established, with a Bonaparte at its head."

In order to find what views Colonel Bonaparte might entertain about the succession to the French throne, the Herald representative called at his elegant residence on North Charles street (the fashionable quarter of the city), and was conducted by a lackey, beautifully attired in drab cloth togs and scarlet waistcoat, into

THE PRESENCE OF MRS. BONAPARTE,

wife of the colonel and the granddaughter of Daniel Webster. She is a remarkably prepossessing lady, and was richly attired in a heavy silk morning robe. Her surroundings were elegant, and the air of her mansion was that of quiet royalty. She received me pleasantly, and invited me to a seat.

WHAT MRS. BONAPARTE SAID.

"Can I see the colonel, madam?" said I.

Mrs. Bonaparte—"He is out, sir. What would you have with him?"



"I called for the Herald," I replied, "to inquire his views with regard to the present situation in France."

She seemed pleased at this remark, and replied, "I am sure, sir, he would not give them."

"Well, madam," I remarked, "I supposed as much from what I have heard; but he would at least say whether he would consent to be drawn from private into public life if the French people should desire; and, too, he could afford me some interesting facts with regard to his family connections, about which so much has been falsely stated in the newspapers."

"Yes, sir, a great deal that is false has been put in the papers," she answered, "and Colonel Bonaparte will be glad to see you if you will call again."

I thanked her for her kindness, and bade her good morning. As I passed out the family carriage stood before the door, and upon the panels the Bonaparte coat-of-arms shone in silver, showing that the Colonel held his right to a membership in that remarkable family.

#### INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL BONAPARTE.

I called yesterday on Colonel Bonaparte, and was well received. After some unimportant remarks I alluded to the death of Napoleon III., following it up with the question:—

"Is there now any chance, Colonel, for the restoration of the empire by a regency of the Empress during the minority of the Prince Imperial?"

"It is very hard for me to answer that question.



Being here at a great distance from the scene of events in France, I am not competent to express an opinion, because I have no evidence upon which I could base it.

#### THE FRENCH PEOPLE ARE SO FICKLE

that any conjecture or prediction I could make might be falsified by events in a few days or weeks hence. The death of the Emperor was so sudden and unexpected that I have scarcely got over my amazement at it. I am awaiting events for a week or so before I form any opinion as to the chances of a regency. I have read in the Herald what the Marquis de Noailles, the French minister, said regarding the death of the Emperor. I do not agree with him where he says that this sad event will give the final blow to the hopes of the imperialists. I do not think the restoration of the empire improbable, but, on the contrary, believe it not impossible that the Emperor's death might cause a change of feeling in favor of the empire. Now that he is dead it will be remembered that his reign had given France twenty years of uninterrupted prosperity, such as she never enjoyed under any preceding government, and its disastrous close will not be altogether attributed to him."

#### THE EMPRESS AS REGENT.

"But would the Empress be qualified to act as Regent?"

"Why not? She has great tact, is high-minded, generous; indeed possesses those qualifications of head and heart which command the admiration of the mul-



titude. The Bonapartes have a far better claim to the affection of the French people than the Orleanists and the Bourbon pretenders."

"Do you think, Colonel, that the army is still attached to the empire?"

"The French army does not meddle with politics, and I think this is right, but I have no doubt that the greater part would hail with joy

#### THE RETURN OF THE EMPIRE.

Look at the demonstration there is going to be at Napoleon's funeral. I have seen in the papers that so many people are leaving France to attend that the railways have reduced their fares for that special occasion. A great number of officers in the army have asked leave to pay the last honors to the dead chief, to whom they have sworn allegiance. Does not this look like

#### A DEMONSTRATION?"

"What is your opinion, Colonel, regarding the order of the French government that the officers who went to attend Napoleon's funeral could only do so in civilian's dress?"

"I suppose the government wishes to have the fact concealed that so many army officers are to be present. Being in civilian's dress, their great number will not be easily known. The Thiers government appears to be uneasy that the demonstration will be very formidable, and hence these precautions."

"Are you not





IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE IMPERIAL FAMILY,  
Colonel?"

"Yes; I received a letter from the Empress only a few days ago, saying that the Emperor was in good health, but she did not make any allusion to the prospects of the imperial family. She very seldom writes or talks politics."

"How did Madame Bonaparte take the death of Napoleon?"

"I cannot speak for her. I do not suppose she was specially affected by it."

"Is there not some misunderstanding between you and Madame Bonaparte? I hear that you have not met lately?"

Pause, and then, evasively: "I cannot speak for Madame Bonaparte. You had better ask her yourself."

The interesting interview was then brought to a close.

#### MADAME BONAPARTE'S WONDERFUL ENERGY.

The remarkable energy and singleness of purpose with which Madame Bonaparte has striven to obtain in fact what the Pope, the French courts and every impartial man have declared to be her rights in law, have been inherited by her descendants; and, added to the personal qualities of bravery, discretion, and a high view of what is right in her grandson, the Colonel, promises in the present disturbed state of France and amid the vacillating movements of her present



statesmen, a rallying point, the stability of which is the most imperative need in that country, as it is an indispensable foundation for a contented government. This content for themselves and stability for their imperial government will be attempted to be secured by the French imperialists by their availing themselves of the abilities of the Colonel, and in greater measure the higher the office they confer on him.

From an intimate association with those who know the facts well I have compiled the above statements, and I close with the declaration that the field of action of Colonel Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, now in Baltimore, will be transferred to the old continent ere long, and that his efforts there will be devoted and commensurate with the national importance and dignity of the people in whose government the Bonaparte family still are endeavoring to take a leading part.



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*John James Host 11/2/77*  
*Ann Valley Hist Soc. Col 4/12/5*

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